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THE NEWSPAPER FOR FOLKESTONE, HYTHE AND DISTRICT

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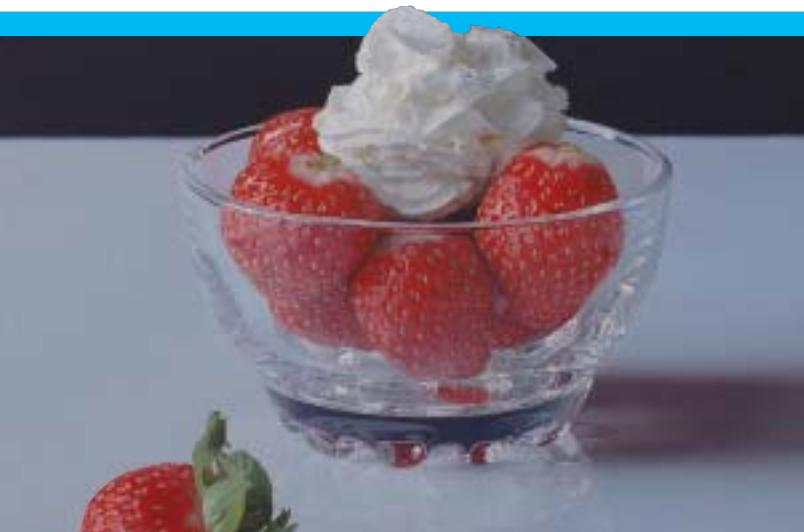
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ARTIST IS CREAM OF THE CROP

A Creative Quarter artist has won the prestigious £5,000 ING purchase prize for her painting *Strawberries And Cream*, which was recently on display in London.

Charlotte Harris, who is best known for winning the BP Portrait Award in 2003 at the age of 21 with a painting of her grandmother, has turned her focus to contemporary still-life paintings in recent months.

Her entry was among those of 250 artists chosen by *Discerning Eye*'s arts editor Tim Barber to be put on show at the exhibition, which was held at the Mall Galleries.

Charlotte, whose studio is in Folkestone's Old High Street, said *Strawberries And Cream* reflected her love of painting different textures such as glass and the skin of fruit, showcasing the various qualities of objects and bringing them to life. See www.charlotte-harris.com for more of her work.

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

PLANNING permission for Fisherman's Beach has been frozen while the Government looks into whether it should call in the decision.

The dramatic turn comes only days after Shepway councillors voted 8-4 in favour of the controversial plans to build 62 homes, a fishmongers, a restaurant and eight huts.

A council spokeswoman said a direction had been received from Communities Secretary Eric Pickles not to grant planning permission before Friday, December 17, without his authorisation, while he considers whether to call in the application and determine it himself.

Shepway council's development control committee voted in favour of the plans last week despite fears over its scale and impact on the area's fishermen, landscape and heritage.

Sources say an application was made to the Government Office of the South East, which advises the Secretary of State, as early as Saturday, September 4, although this has not been confirmed.

The intervention echoes events from earlier this year in the wake of Shepway's decision to approve the Lydd airport expansion plans, when councillors overruled advice by Government conservation body Natural England.

An appeal was then made to the Secretary of State, who decided to hold a public inquiry into the plans; it is due to start in February.

Ahead of the Fisherman's Beach meeting, campaigners had also succeeded in winning Grade II-listed heritage status for the two lifeboat houses, which were under threat of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Dungeness C is rejected again by Government

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

FURTHER doubt has been cast on the future of nuclear power at Dungeness after a government minister reiterated the coalition's opposition to the scheme.

Plans for a third reactor on the existing site were thrown into disarray late last year when the previous Labour administration left it off a list of potential locations where new plants might be built in the future.

More than 500 people currently work at Dungeness B, and campaigners fear the community will crumble if its main employer ceases to exist.

Folkestone and Hythe's Conservative MP Damian Collins secured a Parliamentary debate on the subject in Westminster Hall on Tuesday last week but was told environmental concerns surrounding the proposal had not been allayed.

Energy minister Gregory Barker (Con) said: 'Dungeness failed because we do not believe a new nuclear power station could be built there without causing adverse impacts on the integrity of the special area of conservation, or that the impacts could be avoided or even substantially mitigated.'

'I therefore have to say that, given the particular adverse effects in relation to Dungeness, the Government does not consider listing the site is justified. I know that will come as a disappointment to my honourable friend but I also know he will continue with his campaign.'

'I assure him that, although I have given him our clear and stated view today, we remain open to new evidence.'

Nuclear power meets about 20 per cent of the UK's electricity needs and is supplied by 19 reactors throughout Britain, the majority of which are nearing the end of their lives.

The existing Dungeness B reactor



CAMPAINING: Damian Collins in debate about a possible new nuclear reactor

is a 1,200-megawatt twin-unit power station that employs more than 500 full-time staff but is due to be decommissioned by 2018.

Were Dungeness C to be approved, it would create about 2,000 jobs during construction and a further 350 to 450 over a 60-year period.

It would also produce a maximum output of 1,600MW – sufficient for about 2.5 million households.

Mr Collins told the minister during the debate that he felt the positive aspects of allowing a new reactor at Dungeness – namely job creation and energy security – could outweigh the environmental concerns.

He added: 'The debate on whether Dungeness power station goes forward is based not on whether the local people are for or against it – they are overwhelmingly in favour.'

Earlier this year the Secretary of State said consideration should be given to whether new stations can be built alongside existing nuclear sites and whether there is strong local support. Dungeness meets both criteria.

'We are left having to fight for something I believe should be relatively straightforward. However, it is a fight I am determined to pursue on behalf of my constituents as many of their livelihoods depend on a new nuclear power station at Dungeness.'

During the debate Mr Collins also paid tribute to Dungeness campaigner and county councillor Willie Richardson, who died following a lengthy battle with cancer.

'Shepway once again skims lot of concerns'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE either being demolished or moved further up the beach.

Kent County Council is also considering whether half of the site should be designated village-green status.

Sean Furey, deputy director of Protect Kent, said about the delay: 'It is a good thing because it seems to us that once again Shepway council have skimmed over a lot of serious concerns that need to be taken into account, particularly in relation to the wider character of the area, as well as the livelihoods of the fishermen.'

'It's an important area and hopefully it's an opportunity for those arguments to be looked at in more depth.'

'It's a test of localism and what it means, whether the local council is right or the local people are right.'

Jail for officer assault

A FOLKESTONE man has been jailed for 119 days after pleading guilty to assaulting a police officer and failing to surrender to custody.

Reuban Daley, 33, of Clarence Street, was sentenced on Thursday, November 11, at Folkestone court after admitting he assaulted a police constable in the execution of his duty on Wednesday, October 20.

He also pleaded guilty that on November 3 he failed without reasonable excuse to surrender to magistrates, having been released on bail.

Illegal driver is fined

AN UNINSURED driver who was spotted behind the wheel in Folkestone has been sentenced and fined, with points docked from his licence.

Ryan Kirby, 27, of the town's Morehall Avenue, was sentenced on Wednesday, November 17, at Folkestone court.

On Wednesday, September 15, Kirby drove a Vauxhall Astra in Tram Road without third-party insurance.

He pleaded guilty by post and his licence was endorsed with six points. He was fined £325 and ordered to pay £35 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Drugs sentencing

A NEW ROMNEY man has been sentenced following his conviction for possessing cannabis and cocaine.

Sebastion Solomon Chey Walmsley, 19, of Imbert Close, admitted the charge at Folkestone court on Wednesday, November 17.

On Monday, November 1, he was found in possession of the respective Class B and Class A drugs and given a 12-month conditional discharge.

Presentation goes wild about gardeners



WE'RE ALL WILD ABOUT GARDENS: Entrants ranged from school groups to big business

tion, run jointly with Kent Wildlife Trust and Royal Horticultural Society. Gold certificates were collect-

ed by Annette Barsby of Dymchurch, Avril Marsh of Hythe and Deborah Stevens of Old Hawkinge.

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Axing creative scheme 'a real loss for schools'

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A LEADING academic has condemned the decision to scrap funding for a creative learning programme, claiming it will cause a national crisis.

Head-teacher Sonette Schwartz, of Brockhill Park Performing Arts College in Saltwood, said the threat to the Creative Partnerships scheme would come as a blow to all schools in Kent and could affect the future of the country.

She said the project, which became one of the first casualties of arts funding cuts, enhanced learning and re-evaluated the way lessons were taught.

"This isn't about performing arts and jumping around on stage," she said. "We work in maths and science in this way, too."

"Creative Partnerships enhances the way we teach children. It teaches them ingenuity, how to problem-solve, how to think outside the box and how to impart knowledge. We need people who can do this for the future of the country."

Creative Partnerships was launched by the Labour government in 2002, in response to criticism that the National Curriculum's heavy focus on maths and literacy was stopping opportunities for creativity in education, something considered as crucial to the modern workplace.

It led to arts professionals being brought in to schools to show teachers how to use creative approaches to tackle complex challenges, not only in arts subjects but maths, science and literacy.

But arts funding has been reduced as part of the coalition Government's sweeping cuts, meaning Arts Council England is no longer able to fund the scheme.

Mrs Schwartz said: "We're very upset about it. It's an unfortunate situation.

"We've worked very closely with Creative Partnerships, improving the way we teach and looking at how students learn. It's going to be a real loss for us and a real loss for education."

Mike Hill, Kent County Council's cabinet member for community services, said Creative Partnerships has provided additional and innovative approaches to creative education for a range of schools.

"As well as the work they undertake in arts education, they use creative processes to unlock understanding of a range of subjects, such as maths and science," he said.

"There are many talented teachers in Kent who are more than capable of delivering the curriculum. However, they have benefited from the additional skills learned from Creative Partnership staff."

Creative Foundation spokesman Peter Bettley said he was not aware of any CP projects with artists in the Folkestone community, but called the withdrawal of the funding stream "unhelpful".

"The withdrawal of any funding streams for artists is unhelpful, not just from the point of view of artists, but because a creative approach in teaching can help students across the curriculum," he said.



STARK WARNING: Brockhill Park head-teacher Sonette Schwartz

Town steps up festive cheer

CHRISTMAS trees and cascades of lights are up in Folkestone to mark the start of the festive countdown.

On Saturday, a day of events and activities will open when Santa Claus on his sledge, pantomime characters and other performers parade from the Leas Cliff Hall along Sandgate Road to the precinct outside Debenhams.

Studios and galleries in the Creative Quarter will be showcasing their wares, together with a craft emporium and Father Christmas's grotto, and parking will be free in council-owned car parks on Saturday, December 18, Sunday, December 19, and Friday, December 24.

Saracens back rugby academy

SARACENS Rugby Club has joined with Folkestone Academy to provide elite coaching.

The Premiership side have endorsed the Folkestone Rugby Academy, based at the school and at Folkestone Rugby Club, starting in September next year.

Students aged 16-19 will follow a sports development programme alongside their academic courses.

Trials take place in February 2011. Call 01303 842400 or email admin@folkestoneacademy.com.

Car park fees to be reviewed by council

CAR-PARKING charges should be reviewed across the district to try and encourage greater use of empty spaces, councillors will debate tonight.

In a motion tabled by opposition Liberal Democrat members, the authority is asked to look into varying how much it charges in each of its 23 pay-and-display car parks, to persuade more people to stay.

It comes after charging was introduced at Castle Road car park in Sandgate, which one local councillor claims saw a dramatic drop in the number of spaces being used.

The motion said: "This council will amend its car parking policy to allow individual determination and testing of parking fees and periods in each of its currently charging car parks, in consultation with the town or parish council in which the car park is located.

"This council believes pricing and charging hours should be appropriate to each charging car park to ensure the maximum use of car parking spaces, which in turn would assist the current policy of income maximisation from fee-paying council car parks."

But Shepway said money raised was estimated to reach £20,000 over the course of a year, some of which could go towards paying for community projects throughout the district.

parking charges at Castle Road car park said: "Empty car parks are no use to anyone – they raise no money for Shepway, and make life difficult for local residents and businesses.

"If cutting charges in some car parks raised their usage, we could see a win for everyone: more people paying Shepway to park, more people using the car park rather than seeking scarce spaces on local roads, and more people able to stop in our towns and villages.

Understand

"One size does not fit all for charging at Shepway's car parks – we need to use some common sense."

A Shepway spokeswoman said the current policy of a flat rate, fair to all charge made it easy for drivers to understand and know what to expect.

Under the previous arrangement Sandgate parish council paid Shepway £1,800 a year to offer free parking at the Castle Road site, before charging was introduced in August 2009.

But Shepway said money raised was estimated to reach £20,000 over the course of a year, some of which could go towards paying for community projects throughout the district.

Police step in as party goes wild

A TEENAGE house party in Cheriton went out of control when word spread through Facebook, with police seizing hundreds of pounds worth of alcohol.

Officers were called to the address at 10pm on Friday last week and found more than 50 underage youngsters in the terraced house drinking heavily.

The 17-year-old girl who organised the party claims she had only invited 20 close friends but others had gatecrashed when they found out about it on Facebook and through text messages.

Police stopped the party and emptied the house to help protect the property and prevent nuisance to neighbours.

Wine, spirits, cider and lager were seized as the youngsters left the house, with four heavily intoxicated 15-year-old girls being escorted home by officers.

Shepway licensing officer PC Chris Stephens, pictured below with some of the confiscated alcohol, said: "This highlights the importance of adult supervision of private parties and, more importantly, supervision of alcohol consumption by under-18s."

"Girls becoming heavily intoxicated beyond personal control, fighting, noise and items being stolen are just typical consequences of a party losing control."

"This party took more than six police officers to clear up the problems, with drunken youths still being dispersed from the area up until midnight".



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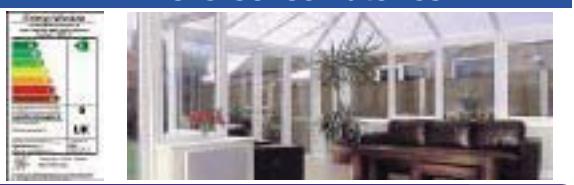
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Christmas music

Every weekend during December a variety of choirs will be performing round the Christmas tree.

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To find out more about Christmas at County Square visit
www.countysquareshoppingcentre.com

Fury at Fisherman's Beach vote

SHEPWAY councillors voted two to one in favour of development at Fisherman's Beach in Hythe, despite fears over its scale and impact.

The decision to allow the building of 62 homes, a restaurant, fishmongers and eight huts on a strip of land used by anglers, artists and walkers was met with howls of protest and calls of derision.

Up to 200 people attended the highly-anticipated development control committee meeting at Civic Centre on Tuesday, last week, with a packed public gallery and others in anterooms listening via audio link.

Liberal Democrat Peter Carroll, who was standing in as a substitute member, questioned the council's right to decide the matter considering it owned part of the land under debate and stood to gain financially, saying it was "against natural justice".

Misled

But he was advised by council officials there was no conflict of interest and all applications should be treated the same regardless.

Helen Severs addressed the committee on behalf of residents and said they were being misled by the officers' report prepared for the meeting, which had recommended approval.

She said it had failed to mention that a proposed housing development at Dengemarsh Road, Lydd, was turned down due to noise from nearby firing ranges, upheld by the Planning Inspectorate, and the same problem would affect the beach.

"At Fisherman's Beach, we have an echo off the industrial units. The Lydd site had gunfire readings at 70 decibels (dB). Fisherman's Beach has 84.1dB," she said.

She also said night-time noise caused by air valves and fishing-boat winches would breach health guidelines; the architect was relying on faulty sea and flood information; and the council was ignoring policies on improving sea access for boats and protecting part of the beach classed as countryside.

Hythe town councillor John Schoner told the committee the buildings would be "too high, too intensive and take away a public amenity", robbing the area of an important part of its past.

There could be up to 200 extra daily vehicle movements and the development would "stand out like a sore thumb" along the coast.

He said: "This committee is sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity and should put aside thoughts of the potential £2.25 million income to its own authority which would be spread throughout the district and not returned to Hythe. So Hythe loses out again if this goes ahead. The residents deserve better."

Speaking in favour of the application, architect Guy Hollaway said it was a unique opportunity to regenerate a former gasworks site which had become a derelict eyesore.

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

tunity to regenerate a former gasworks site which had become a derelict eyesore.

He said it would help celebrate the fishing fleet by creating high-quality buildings for a more pleasant working environment and complement the RNLI buildings with a boardwalk. During the debate, People First councillor Brian Copping said the decision was a "no-brainer" due to the noise, the nearby waste-water treatment plant and the effect on fishermen.

Cllr Neil Matthews (Lib Dem) said the council was going to do very well out of the scheme and it needed to be "absolutely squeaky clean" when deciding if it was going to be of benefit to the town.

Cllr Clive Goddard (Con) said the design would look good in Docklands or by the Thames, but not in this part of the country.

Cllr Dick Pascoe (Con) said he had visited the site that afternoon and found it to be "a complete mess, with piles of abandoned equipment and huts which looked ready to fall down in the next gale".

But he questioned the accuracy of the 'sniff test' used to determine if the smell from the treatment plant would affect those living nearby and asked whether he would want to sit in a restaurant with the sound of guns going off at the adjacent MoD ranges.

Councillors Brian Copping and Keren Belcourt said there had been a "tasteful" development at Eastfields in Folkestone which was an example of what could be built on a former gasworks site.

Impact

Sarah Hogben, from the council's environmental health department, said officials had used the sniff test, wandering around the site in different weather and times of the day, together with computer modelling to determine the likely odour impact.

She said any smell would be at a very low level and on an infrequent basis.

Cllr Alan Clifton-Holt (Con) said he had been "shocked" by abusive phone calls and letters prior to the meeting and reminded committee members they represented the whole district, not just Hythe. He said he liked the design and had not realised the wastewater treatment works was there, so doubted smell would be much of an issue.

Cllr Hugh Barker (Con) said any benefits from the sale of the land would go towards



CONTROVERSIAL: Shepway District Council has given the go-ahead for development at Fisherman's Beach

the people of Shepway and were not relevant to the decision, but appreciated there was noise from the firing ranges which could be heard as far away as the centre of Folkestone.

Cllr Belcourt (Con), who is also Hythe's mayor

and was standing in place of regular committee member Cllr Michael Lyons, said the Environment Agency had carried out a strategic flood assessment and was happy with it.

She said there had been anti-social behaviour at the beach and even a reported stabbing during a rave. The site needed improvement and would be more open to the public.

A motion to reject the application on grounds including poor design, loss of amenity, being outside the settlement plan and impact on the scheduled listed buildings was proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Lib Dem colleague Cllr Carroll. However, it was voted down 9-4, with one abstention.

A motion to approve the application was then taken, with councillors voting 8-4 in favour, with two abstentions. The meeting ended to a chorus of boos and jeers from the public gallery, many aimed at Cllr Belcourt.

After the meeting, Ms Severs told Yourshepway the fight would continue: "All is not lost as the village-green application will still be processed by Kent County Council and will have a major effect on the amount of land available at Fisherman's Beach for development."

Stand-in Belcourt facing backlash

HYTHE mayor Keren Belcourt faces a public backlash after standing in at a crucial meeting to vote for controversial plans to develop Fisherman's Beach.

Shepway council's development control committee approved the scheme for 62 mixed flats and homes, a restaurant, fishmonger's and huts at the strip of land still used by working fishermen and a favourite of artists and walkers.

Cllr Belcourt, who as well as being a town councillor also represents Hythe East on Shepway District Council, was a last-minute replacement for fellow Tory Michael Lyons on the influential committee. During the meeting she said the beach had been the scene of antisocial behaviour and even a reported stabbing and needed improvement, despite angry shouts of protest from the public gallery.

Hythe Town Council, of which she is chair, had previously voted against the plans, but the final decision is made by Shepway as the planning authority. Since the meeting there have been calls for her to step down or be voted out, and two Hythe Liberal Democrat councillors have called for her censure and a debate on her involvement.

Campaigner David Plumstead, who was in the public gallery at last week's meeting, said: "Cllr Belcourt rated on fellow town councillors and dumped on the residents. No surprise there."



CLER KEREN BELCOURT

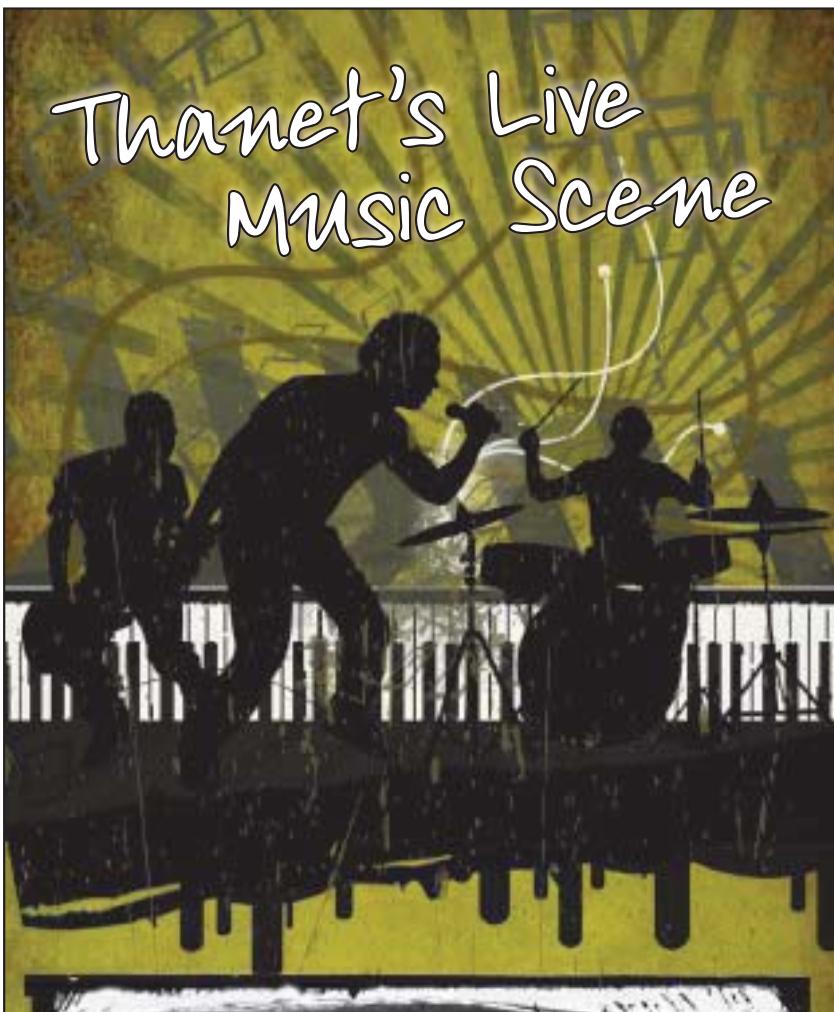
"We urge every resident voting in next May's local elections to remember how Cllr Belcourt and her cronies have repeatedly let them down with their perverse decisions over the Imperial, the Sainsbury's building and the equally daft developments at Nickols Quarry and now Fisherman's Beach, to name but a few."

Protester Denise Maskell told Yourshepway: "She is out of touch with the majority of residents and her own town council, otherwise she would not have tried to convince readers that only a few residents' were against this development. She obviously did not bother to note the 300 or so letters and 2,000 names on the petition."

"Cllr Belcourt should stop living in a bubble and start listening to the people who elected her to represent their views - or step down."

Speaking to Yourshepway, Cllr Belcourt said: "I was there as a Shepway councillor, not as Hythe mayor. It will be a huge improvement to Fisherman's Beach. A lot of people don't like change and want everything set in aspic. I stick to the courage of my convictions and think I was right. I didn't say anything I shouldn't have said."

Cllr Belcourt explained she was a substitute for regular committee member Michael Lyons, who was in hospital and unable to attend.



Thanet's Live Music Scene

Where & When

Thursday 25th November

Danny & Paul

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street,
Sandwich 01304 612335

Friday 26th November

Moscow Riley

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 27th November

EK1

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 27th November

Kelly's Zero's

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Thursday 2nd December

On the Run

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street,
Sandwich 01304 612335

Friday 3rd December

Internal Scarves and Cult 44

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 4th December

Blow

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 4th December

Nearly Famous

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Thursday 9th December

Lorrie & Bill

The New Inn, 2 Delf Street,
Sandwich 01304 612335

Friday 10th December

Breed

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
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Saturday 11th December

Eyelash Guilt

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
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End of the road for bike that carried our posties

■ BY MARIKE COX

THE familiar sight of a postie on a bike is to become a thing of the past as radical changes to the way that mail is delivered are introduced.

Postal workers in eastern parts of the county saw their bicycles taken away last week and replaced with vans – or trolleys for places inaccessible by larger vehicles – in a shake-up by Royal Mail.

The service said it was part of a £2 billion modernisation of the national operation, arguing that it would stop workers having to carry heavy loads of letters and parcels.

One east Kent worker, who asked not to be named, questioned why changes needed to be made when the old system worked.

He said: "All bikes are being taken away and we'll be going out in vans in pairs. Bike sheds at the sorting offices are also being taken down."

A spokesman for Royal Mail said it was not a straightforward switch from bikes to vans, and that not all cycles would go.

But he admitted vans would be the most common way for posties to travel, claiming it would be greener. Previously, postmen were replenished with mail throughout their rounds, leading to multiple trips by vans going to and from the sorting office.



PROGRESS: Bicycles will be replaced by vans and trolleys

"We remain committed to becoming a greener organisation, and the improvements we are making will help in our aim of achieving a 34 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2015," he said.

"As we deliver fewer letters, but more packets and parcels than we did, the switch to vans and trolleys will enable us to take the weight off backs. We can reduce cycling accidents involving staff and we can eliminate the need to send out older, more polluting vans to replenish postmen and women by sending out all the mail,

including parcels and special delivery, in one go."

The Communication Workers' Union, which represents postal workers in the country, welcomed the move.

A spokeswoman said: "We fully support this and the reasons behind it. A lot of people have a rose-tinted view of the postman on his bike, but this is a positive change."

But campaigners from bike group CTC said many postal workers were unhappy about giving up their bikes. Campaign coordinator Debra Rolfe said delivering mail by bike was good for the environment, for the health of postmen and women and for the safety of people using the road.

She said: "To overcome the problem of the increase in the number of parcels being delivered, Royal Mail needs look at using cargo bicycles and tricycles.

"These are already used in the UK by courier companies such as DHL and FedEx and are the norm in other European countries.

"It is also ironic that Royal Mail says it will always consider its environmental impact and wants to develop low-carbon vehicles, when at the same time it is planning to stop using the one of the greenest forms of transport."

Many of the bikes previously used by Royal Mail will be donated to charity.



Runners give a lift to cancer charity

THE New Year's Day Bra Run is entering its eighth year with the aim of raising a record-breaking sum for charity.

The 5km fun run/walk in Deal has so far collected more than £21,000 for Breast Cancer care.

Event organiser Sally Scoggins said: "The run idea came up after a couple of friends of mine asked if Deal Tri could help in raising funds for a breast-cancer care walk they were doing along the Great Wall of China seven years ago."

"It started me thinking about local people getting involved in it with a fun element of decorated bras."

"It has proved popular, and each New Year's Day ladies and men come along to join in the fun."

"We have all age groups: some walk, some run, some push buggies and some bring their dogs, who also don a bra!"

Early entrants receive details of the race plan, but runners can enter on the day.

All the sponsorship money and entrance fees go directly to charity, with volunteers helping to marshall the race.

- For more information, you can visit www.dealtri.co.uk.



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QUESTION & ANSWER

JO JAMES



Q & A

Reporter Ed Hill talks to Jo James, chief executive of the Invicta Chamber of Commerce, about prospects for business in the county in the face of recession and cutbacks and how things will shape up in the future

Q How long have you had connections with Kent?

A My grandparents lived here, and although I was an Army child and therefore lived in various places, we always maintained contact here. I finally settled in Kent permanently 35 years ago.

Q How did you get involved in the Chamber of Commerce?

A I originally ran a children's nursery but had to take a long break from work for medical reasons. As I recovered, I felt that, although I had young children at home, I needed some part-time work and I answered a small-ad for 12 hours a week of secretarial work. I can do that, I thought. That was in July 1990. The job turned out to be at the then-Ashford Chamber of Commerce, and I have been with the chamber ever since. I suppose you could say that I have just completed 20 years of my sentence!

Q Tell us how the chamber helps business in the county

A We use the strapline 'The Ultimate Business Network' and that is what we try to be. It means we are here to help any business in any capacity that we can. Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce can advise and support anybody from the initial dream of a business conception through to a successful trading environment and the fulfilment of that dream. For existing companies of all shapes and sizes, we can help

monitor, develop and expand their trading operation by cutting costs, increasing productivity and advising on all aspects of business practice. Our members can benefit from our extensive networking opportunities, cost-effective member services of all kinds and frequent workshops and advisory clinics.

Q What challenges face business at the moment?

A The biggest challenge at present has to be the ramifications of the recession and the Government's efforts to mitigate the effects of it. There is no doubt that cutbacks and the restructuring of the infrastructure of business support will have wide-ranging effects on the business environment. The running-down of the regional development agencies and the introduction of local enterprise partnerships is another crucial aspect with uncertain outcomes. It is highly likely that we are entering a period of significant change in the whole gamut of business and commerce, and we really have little idea how it will pan out. That uncertainty is probably what constitutes the biggest challenge. How we respond to it is something we have to learn as it unfolds.

Q Are you optimistic about local enterprise partnerships?

A Cautiously optimistic – I believe that any change always presents opportunities. If change can present opportunities, then I feel

that the Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex LEP should be in a position to maximise those opportunities. Provided that the LEPs operate as conceived, with a major element of input from business, then I believe that we can look forward to a positive future.

Q Is there too much red tape for start-up businesses?

A I could devote a whole page to the subject of business red tape, and not just where start-ups are concerned. There are far too many impediments to business growth and development, and frankly it would be tedious to try to list them all. This is where I have great hopes that a business-led LEP will be able to help.

Q What is the chamber's attitude towards the EU?

A One of the many effects of the changing economy might well be a downturn in domestic demand, and the EU represents a whole new market available to local business, which has, frankly, thus far been slow to exploit that potential. Perhaps we have been concentrating too much on the market on our doorstep. A strong EU represents a strong market opportunity and we should all work towards it.

- Contact the Chamber at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Ashford TN24 0LH. Phone: 01233 503838. Email: info@kentinvictachamber.co.uk. Web: www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk.

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Homes cash bonus lifeline for councils

EMPTY properties could become a lifeline for cash-strapped councils after Whitehall announced plans to include them in the money-for-new-houses scheme.

Under proposals published for consultation, town halls could see a massive cash bonus whereby the Government would match the additional council tax raised by every new property for the next six years.

It would also top up council funding with £350 per home during that time.

If the plans go ahead, the New Homes Bonus, originally intended for new houses, would include refurbished older properties made available for accommodation.

On the five-year anniversary of Kent's No Use Empty project, David Ireland, chief executive of the Empty Homes Agency, welcomed the move and said it was illogical not to include long-term empty properties in the bonus scheme.

Aspiration

"It makes sense. There are aspirations for thousands more houses and it should be that empty properties count," he said.

The No Use Empty project, set up in 2005 by Kent County Council and now run by Kent's 12 district and borough authorities, smashed its targets with one in six properties being salvaged. Since it was launched, 1,266 empty buildings have been turned into homes.

Across Kent, there are 9,000 empty properties. No Use Empty invites owners to get help and advice as well as providing a loan to help finance refurbishments and make properties habitable again.

To be eligible, properties must be either sold or rented after completion and the loans repaid in full, when the money is then recycled for another project.

Face it, you don't need so many online friends

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

FACEBOOK fanatics risk being dragged into criminal investigations if they add too many unknown people as friends.

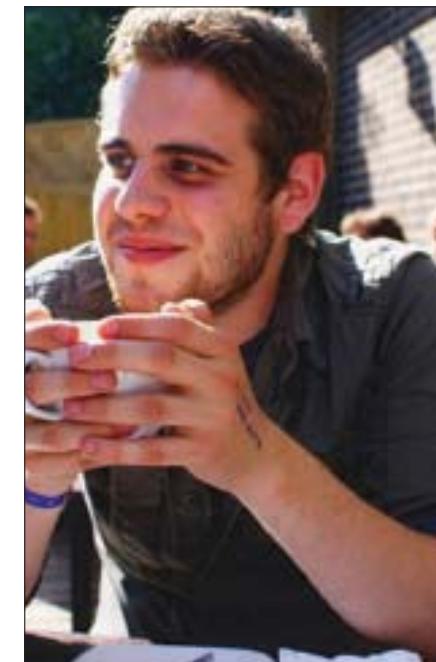
Many users compete to build up as many online acquaintances as they can on the social-networking website, even if they have never met the people they are adding.

But this, says 22-year-old University of Kent student Zack Whittaker, increases the chances of them being associated with terrorists or gang members and opens them up to intelligence gathering.

Mr Whittaker writes for the hugely popular ZDNet technology website but says despite his blogs winning him an army of admirers in the United States, he still only has about 200 Facebook friends.

"The more friends you have on Facebook, the more likely it is that you're adding people you don't really know," he said. "The chances are then higher that some of these people will be involved in activity that's not lawful."

"I'm careful not to expose my personal life too much due to the number of readers I have in the States, but because I know every single one of my Facebook friends I can vouch for every single of them. The same can't be said for people who have 1,500 or more."



FRIENDLY ADVICE: University blogger Zack Whittaker

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Your Christmas guide to Sandwich



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The New Sandwich Christmas Carnival takes place on Friday 26th November, when a glorious procession leaves the Guildhall at 6.30 pm, returning to the Guildhall for the New LED Christmas Lights to be switched on. The pedestrian procession will make its way around the town lit entirely by handheld lanterns and torches finishing with the grand lights switch on by County Councillor Leyland Ridings and assisted by DJ Johnny Lewis.

At the Guildhall there will be stalls selling all sorts of food and drink. There will be street entertainers with fun things for both adults and children to enjoy, a superb hog roast, and many other traditional stalls awaiting your custom. It will be great fun eating roast pork, sipping mulled wine whilst listening to traditional carols. There will be a selection of musical bands which will add traditional Christmas sights and sounds after dark!

The key factor this year will be the replacement of the towns old festoon lighting with entirely new energy saving LED lighting. With no vehicles and only handheld LED torches the whole event will have little if any Carbon footprint. It will be the 'Greenest' Christmas Carnival and Lights event in Kent if not the whole of England come along and join us to celebrate the start of the festive season in this magical medieval town.

**For further details contact: Paul Carter
Chair, Sandwich Community Lights
Committee**

**Phone 07906361690
or pdahcarter@yahoo.co.uk.**

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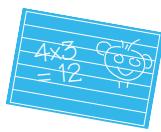
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BREAK TIME

Maritime Festival floats pupils' boat

THE Kent Maritime Festival attracted thousands of school pupils from across the country to Dover.

The event was held at cruise terminal 2 on Thursday, October 14, and sponsored by the newly-merged South and West Kent colleges.

Principal Bill Fearon said the town was central to the future of the college.

He said: "I can't think of a better place than Dover to meet the needs of employers in the maritime industry."

"We want a national reputation for our college in Dover for training for this sector."

"People in the town will notice a new emphasis on maritime skills at the college from next September, and we offer short courses to local employers now."

The Kent Maritime Festival sets out stalls where teenagers can be inspired to consider the marine or maritime sectors for their future careers.

More than 75 interactive stands were at the show, ranging from marine engineering to extreme water-sports, as well as specialist subjects such as logistics and navigation.

The show was organised by the Education Business Partnership Kent, which works to bring together schools and employers, and the day provided youngsters with the opportunity to work with marine employers and take part in hands-on activities.

Other occupations on offer included engineering, hospitality, health and beauty, travel and tourism, science, performing arts, geography, business and construction, as well as careers in the Merchant Navy.



QUESTION TIME: Students from local schools attend a chamber debate during a week of activities organised by Dover District Council to show them how the authority operates

Pupils exercise democratic right to quiz council chiefs

THE politicians and councillors of the future got a chance to witness democracy in action during a week of activities.

Dover District Council invited students to a day of events last month.

The DDC democratic-support team organised the activities for Friday, October 22, and they included a council chamber debate, where the students were able to quiz Kent County Council and DDC officers on particular themes.

These included things to do and places to go, youth services, young people staying safe and litter and recycling.

There was also a fun speed-dating-style exercise which saw some of the pupils ask

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

councillors questions before rating the answers.

Students also heard from Sue Chandler, DDC cabinet member for community, housing and youth, after watching a DVD about homeless teenagers.

Realities

The DVD has been made by students from St Edmund's School and is designed to bring home to young people some of the realities of living on the street.

Students attended from Astor College For The Arts, Castle Community College, Dover Grammar School for Girls, Sandwich Technology School and St Edmund's Catholic School.

The event was designed to help students gain an understanding of the roles of Dover district and Kent county councils as well as learn how democracy works at a local level.

Clr Chandler said: "The day was a great success and we were delighted to support Local Democracy Week for the 10th consecutive year.

"We all had a lot of fun with the political speed-dating exercise and, as usual, the councillors learned a lot from our young people, and hopefully it helped the youngsters to understand more of what councillors do."

"We were also very pleased to show the DVD, produced as part of our youth homelessness strategy, and to talk about some of the work we are doing to help young homeless people."

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Author backs sacked drugs adviser

■ BY MARIJKE COX

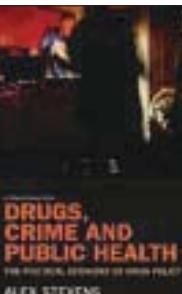
THE author of a new book on drugs has backed a controversial study led by sacked Government adviser David Nutt that claimed alcohol was more harmful than heroin.

Alex Stevens, professor in criminal justice at the University of Kent, said people needed to be told the truth about the dangers of alcohol and praised Professor Nutt for addressing the issue. He also said evidence suggested that little harm would come from decriminalising personal possession of drugs.

The criminologist attended the Independent Scientific Committee summit on Monday last week with Prof Nutt – who was sacked last year for saying ecstasy was less harmful than other drugs – and other academics to discuss new findings that exposed alcohol as the most harmful drug overall in relation to damage to users and the wider society.

Professor Stevens said: "While we are not condoning drug-use, the implications of alcohol need to be addressed. More people die from alcohol than heroin. Liver disease will be the leading cause of death in 10 years' time. Then there is the violence caused by alcohol and the money spent on clearing that up."

The findings of Prof Nutt's study are expected to revive debates over classification



ARGUMENT: Professor Alex Stevens and his new book

of drugs, a subject at the heart of Prof Stevens's new book, *Drugs, Crime And Public Health*, which challenges drugs policy.

It reveals how criminalisation of drug-users had not reduced drug-related harm, and punishment, such as prison, had failed to cut illicit use of drugs.

Prof Stevens said the UK needed to be bolder in taking steps towards more effective, evidence-based policies to increase freedom and reduce drug-taking.

"The thrust of my argument is that decriminalisation should be considered," he said. "When cannabis was moved from Class B to C, with reduced punishment, its use continued to fall."

The idea that decriminalisation increases drug problems is not accurate. If people are

going to take drugs, they don't think about what class it is."

Prof Stevens said decriminalising cannabis would take money out of the hands of crooks.

"If it was available through licensed, regulated premises, like in The Netherlands and Portugal, weaker and less dangerous cannabis would be sold and gangsters would not make as much money," he said.

Asked whether hard drugs such as crack cocaine and heroin could be decriminalised, Prof Stevens said there needed to be evaluated steps taken to see how it would work, including the possibility of prescription control for addicts.

"The evidence suggests little harm would come from decriminalising personal possession," he said.

His book also focuses on the need for better social and welfare support after findings showed the poor suffered most from drug-related harm, such as arrest, imprisonment, illness and death, despite drugs being more common in richer circles.

"There are more drugs in richer areas, but poor people are most affected," he said. "They are more likely to get arrested. This is because in deprived areas there is more crime and policing."

Prof Stevens said: "Rich people are also less likely to become dependent on drugs. They don't do it for a long time. They have other things to do in their lives and have more support."

His book also reveals increased criminalisation does not reduce drug use, with Portugal and The Netherlands, two countries with liberal drug policies, having lower rates than the UK.



UNBEATABLE SAIL

Cross-Channel ferry firm P&O Ferries has picked up two national travel awards. The company took the honours for best cross-Channel ferry operator and for best ferry operator (other routes), for the Hull to Rotterdam and Zeebrugge service.

Votes were cast by more than 220,000 members of the public and travel professionals. The ceremony was held at Battersea Evolution in Battersea Park, London, earlier this month.

Passenger-services director Simon Johnson, pictured above at the awards ceremony after collecting the ferry-operator-of-the-year trophy, said: "This is a great achievement and means even more because we know we won as a direct result of what our customers think of us. I must also say 'Well done' to all our staff who work so hard to keep us out in front."

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yourletters

YOUR LETTERS

Christmas is again on us far too early

I was stunned while walking past a church in Folkestone last week

Christmas lights had to be put up earlier

I read the Hythe reader's comments about Christmas lights being up "but not lit in the early days of October in Folkestone" (Letters, November 10) and would just like to make the following observation:

1. There are few companies capable of carrying out the works required for installing Christmas lights. We have to work with their busy schedule around the country at this time of year.

2. New rules and regulations are very stringent. In order to have the new lighting scheme installed and ready for the switch-on at the end of November, the company we used had to start in October – it took three weeks (mainly in the evenings) just to safely install the new catenary wiring and place the new lights in 18 trees. All these lights will be up permanently and used on other occasions as required.

3. The company has other towns to deal with, so we were fortunate in having the bulk of our work done before the end of October. The remainder of the Christmas lights in the precinct were due to be installed after Remembrance Sunday, which is when we prefer to have them up, but we have to go along with what our contractor can cope with.

I have some sympathy with the reader's comments about Christmas coming earlier and earlier, but if our lights were not ready to be switched on by the start of the festive season in December, there would no doubt be other complaints.

John D Barber
Folkestone town-centre manager

Payment gave lift to new world disorder

The news that the British government is to pay millions of pounds to 16 individuals, including Binyam Mohamed, who was swanning around Pakistan and Afghanistan for some reason best known to himself, must fill decent people in England with dismay.

All this falls on the cash-rich, morally-poor ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair and the long-forgotten George W Bush causing new world disorder.

This was a sad day for democracy and a good day for our enemies.

Alan Ewins
Folkestone



LETTERS: Please send your letters to: The editor, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS



EMAIL: Email your letters to the editor, Dave Mairs: dave.mairs@kosmedia.co.uk

yourblogger

Ian MacMillan asks why the country should get excited about the royal engagement



I REMEMBER where I was when Princess Diana – the Princess of Hearts, as Tony Blair called her – died.

I was in bed and had put the radio on when the news broke. I thought 'How sad' and looked forward to a normal day.

Alas, many youngsters die every day and it's all very regrettable, as is being a passenger in a car and not putting on a seatbelt.

Like Diana, I was a single parent when she died and had children of my own, aged four, nine and 10. But I was a working parent and had neither the time nor the money for the promiscuous lifestyle Diana enjoyed.

I was taken aback by the reaction to her death and, when one is evidently in a small minority, it's necessary to think very carefully and try to believe that the majority are right and it is you who are deeply flawed for, in this case, finding the death of Diana no more regrettable than, for instance, the death of a saint of a girl that I knew who died in the same year.

She had cystic fibrosis but, in spite of the knowledge of her likely early death, she was always cheerful and kind and consequently made me ashamed of my own petty worries.

There were few flowers for her when she died – only noticed and mourned by her nearest and dearest.

No special song by Elton John and no minute's

silence. So I never understood the reaction to Diana's death.

A kind of floral fascism was at work after her death in a country patrolled by the grief police, and all of it was incomprehensible to me.

As like the story of The Emperor's New Clothes, I thought, me being one of the few to say he was naked.

And it's begun again. I'm completely indifferent regarding a couple of toffs getting engaged.

OK, one of them may be a future king, but the monarchy is an anachronistic, parasitic institution belonging to the 15th century and, if one believes in a classless society, has no place in 21st-century Britain.

We don't have hereditary doctors, hereditary politicians or hereditary airline pilots without any reference to their ability to do their jobs, but an exception is made for the scions of one particular family.

If one thinks that this country ought to be a meritocracy, why bother to abolish the hereditary peers in the House of Lords?

The monarchy is the basis of our class system – why tinker about at the edges rather than chop off the head?

In the meantime, spare a thought for republicans such as me who will have to endure months and months of mindless, hysterical nonsense.

Yes, I'm in a minority. Tell me why I am wrong. I probably won't understand, but I promise to listen and try.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above.

If you want to be the next blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.kentnews.co.uk.

Council merger does not go far enough

The decision by Shepway and Dover district councils to merge their services is to be welcomed, especially at a time of severe cutbacks in local-authority budgets.

Mere merger of services, though, does not go far enough. Shepway and Dover councils should be merged in their entirety into one unitary authority with the number of councillors cut by at least half, if not more.

At the same time wasteful town councils across the districts should be abolished, along with their mayoral chains and turgid political newsheets.

A new Channel authority would not only serve the people of Shepway and Dover better but would be a powerful counterweight to the ever-more powerful county council that can grab land at Sellindge for its lorry park one minute and in the next cause chaos at the Port of Dover with Operation Stack and its inability to grit our roads in winter.

A new unitary authority would also be a golden opportunity to clear out the deadwood among the present councillors on Shepway and Dover councils.

No longer would the councils be a sinecure for timeservers and party followers – rather, elected members would need to prove their worth if we had fewer councillors.

People's faith in democracy might also be restored across the area if a new unitary authority resulted in the people of Lydd being given the opportunity at a by-election to replace their dear departed councillor within weeks, not some time in the distant future judged less embarrassing to the Tory party losing the seat.

The Coalition Government has proclaimed time and again its commitment to cutting waste and bureaucracy.

Cutting the number of councillors and councils by half along the Channel coast would certainly be nailing its flag to the mast in the Cinque Ports.

Donald Worsley
Folkestone and Hythe Labour Party

Explain the reason for museum fence

If Mike Eddy (last week's letters) one of his fellow trustees of Deal Maritime And Local History Museum could explain how the actions they have taken achieve

Fence the best way to protect museum

Peter Jull (last week's letters) asks the trustees of the Deal Maritime And Local History Museum to explain the reasons the museum was obliged to put a fence around its property.

He then answers his own questions. It was put up for the safety and security of the museum's collections and of its visitors.

Unfortunately, Mr Jull seems unable to accept that the museum's visitors and its collections should be as safe and secure as possible.

He seems unable to understand that, if the low safety barrier, put up after the museum charity ended the neighbour's tenancy, was constantly being moved around the museum's yard, then there was a clear risk to visitors and to the museum and the neighbour through accident claims.

He seems equally unable to understand that, when the neighbours moved the artefacts in the museum yard or taped messages to them, they were damaging the collections.

He also asks if we had ever asked the neighbour whether she "felt inconvenienced" by visitors to the museum being "near" the windows of her lean-to kitchen outhouse.

There was no need to ask. She has made her opinions crystal-clear for some time.

Mike Eddy, deputy chairman
Deal Maritime And Local History Museum

Lord Young saga was pointer to Tory truth

Lord Young had to go.

It's not so much that he was insensitive in claiming that we

"have never had it so good". A former minister in the Thatcher government is unlikely to be worried about being insensitive.

No, the real problem was that he was an adviser on enterprise to David Cameron and even Mr Cameron was obliged to describe his thinking as "inaccurate".

And Mr Cameron was obliged to dismiss Lord Young's opinion as "inaccurate" because, if he hadn't done so, then the whole reason for the Coalition Government's slash-and-burn approach to the public services would have been destroyed.

The excuse for the savagery of the Coalition's cuts is that they are necessary because we are in a recession and we need to control spending.

But if Mr Cameron's 'enterprise Tsar' reckons that it's only a "so-called recession", then the savage cuts are unnecessary. The truth is revealed.

The level and intensity of the cuts are the product of Conservative and LibDem dogma rather than economic forethought.

And, of course, Mr Cameron's judgement in appointing him in the first place is shown, again, to be at fault.

Bryan Henderson
Deal

Time to take action to save our forests

Kent Green Party is concerned that British forests may be sold off by the Government.

Our main objection to selling off forests is that this is likely to lead to further habitat fragmentation, ie species get trapped in smaller and smaller islands of vegetation. This inevitably leads to their extinction in the smaller fragments.

Kent Green Party has already resisted attempts to remove a quarter of Lyminge Forest for a holiday village.

We fear selling off forests will lead to development proposals for leisure and housing.

Kent has a substantial area of woodland in the Green Belt near London.

It has about 45,217 hectares of broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland and a further 3,813 hectares of coniferous forest.

We note that the Government has rushed to calm down opposition to the sell-off by offering consultation.

However, we also note that the Government seems intent on selling off nature reserves and that 25 conservation organisations have condemned this policy.

There are even suggestions that the Government is trying to 'dump' nature reserves on these groups without funding.

Kent Green Party believes that protecting and improving forests will need the support of the Government.

We call on everyone who values their local environment to write to their MPs condemning these policies.

Dr Geoff Meaden
Kent Green Party



CLEANING UP: Kingsgate Bay met the standard

Coast is clear for another accolade

THOSE looking forward to enjoying a dip in the sea next summer can do so with ease after every beach in Kent was awarded top-quality status for its clean water.

Findings released by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Environment Agency showed that the county's 28 bathing spots met the highest European standards for water quality.

It comes just weeks after Kent's coastline was named as a top world destination by travel guide Frommer's.

Tourism bodies are trumpeting both accolades and believe they will bring even more people to the coastal towns.

Chris Kirkham, manager of tourism board Discover Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh, said: "There is a lot of positive news being generated by the Kent coast.

"We have had more people deciding to holiday in the UK over the last three or four years and I don't think that's likely to change."

Areas such as Thanet, which has a number of celebrated bays highlighted by Blue Flag status, already attracts thousands of tourists each year to its sandy beaches.

Kate's Kent past reveals her own royal heritage

KATE Middleton is the first commoner to marry into the Royal Family in 350 years, but her Kent past is nothing to be ashamed of.

The bride-to-be breaks the three-and-a-half-century record set when Anne Hyde wed the Duke of York, who was later crowned James II, in 1660.

But it has now emerged that the 28-year-old, full name Catherine Elizabeth Middleton, has plenty of ancestral connections with the county.

Researchers William Addams Reitwiesner and Michael J Wood have compiled her family tree and revealed Kate's Kent heritage.

Her great-great-grandfather was Frederick John Glassborow, who was born in Nelson Terrace, Haggerstone, Middlesex, on February 22, 1859.

In 1881 he was a commercial clerk, rising to become a shipping manager in 1920. He died at Homeleigh, Lismore Road, Beltinge, Kent, on December 21, 1932.

A great-great-great-grandfather was building labourer and brickmaker John Goldsmith, who

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

was born in Maidstone in 1827. He died from internal strangulation, a bowel condition, in Islington in June, 1888.

Kate had a great-great-great-grandfather, again called John Goldsmith, who was born in Kent in 1783.

He was a carpenter and died around 1851. He was married to Rebecca, who was born in Maidstone in 1796 and died from bronchitis at Church Street, Tovil, on December 29, 1869.

Under a section labelled 'plausible continuation' of the ancestry of Kate Middleton' by the researchers, she has under 14 'greats' some noble blood in the guise of Thomas Boleyn, 1st Earl of Wiltshire, who was born in 1477 at Hever, Kent, and died at Hever Castle, on March 12, 1538 or 1539.

The father of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII, was an English diplomat and politician whose grandfather Geoffrey Boleyn, a wealthy mercer, had purchased the Kent manor home. Boleyn was the maternal grandfather of Queen Elizabeth I.



CLOSE: Kate and William are 12th cousins, once removed

Never historian Anna Spender said: "Thomas Boleyn is Kate's 14th-generation great-grandparent. He had three children with his wife, Elizabeth Howard: Mary, who was mistress of Henry VIII; Anne, second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Queen Elizabeth I; and George. The children spent their childhood at Hever Castle.

"Prince William and Kate Middleton are distantly related, 12th cousins once removed, and are descended from the Boleyn family, who owned Hever Castle in Kent between 1462 and 1538.

"Thomas Boleyn is Prince William and Kate's 14th-generation grandfather. They are descended from Mary Boleyn's side of the family."

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£1.6 million repairs contract is agreed

A MILLION-POUND council-housing contract has been awarded to facilities services provider Morrison.

The £1.6 million-per-year deal will see the contractor take on responsibility for providing a range of repairs and maintenance services to Dover District Council's 4,600 homes.

The partnership, which commences next month, will also see Morrison provide day-to-day responsive repairs, out-of-hours repairs and void-maintenance repairs.

Guy Wakeley, Morrison chief executive, said: "We are extremely pleased to have been awarded this new contract with Dover District Council and look forward to providing a first-class repairs service."

Just one number to get the police

KENT Police have entered the final phase of introducing a single non-emergency number.

The year-long project aims to make it easier for members of the public to get in touch with the local police force.

Callers to police stations were being redirected to the new number, but from Monday, November 8, people have had to dial 01622 690690 directly.

Kent Police Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams said: "This single number should make contacting the police in a non-emergency situation much more straightforward for people."

The neighbourhood policing team contact numbers will not change. For details, visit www.kent.police.uk.

Conkers prove a smash for Gurkha youngsters

■ BY NICK AMES

GURKHA children at a primary school have been getting into the swing of a traditional children's autumn pastime – conkers.

Pupils at St Mary's primary school in Ashford have taken up the age-old game, which has been threatened in recent years by health-and-safety legislation in some schools.

The St Mary's youngsters have even set up competitions and formed their own club – with the Nepalese children among the most enthusiastic players.

The game is played by two players, each with a conker threaded on to a piece of string – they take turns striking each other's horse chestnut until one breaks.

The game was reintroduced to the school after a member of staff enquired whether teachers and pupils had any interest in it.

Some public perception is that it has been banned under health-and-safety legislation, although this is not the case.

So when teachers started to explain the game and produced the raw materials, interest soared among pupils.

Head-teacher Sue Parkin said: "In the weeks leading up to half-term, the games were in full swing as there were horse chestnuts all around to be picked up."



PRESENT ARMS: Gurkha pupils ready with their conkers

"We have no problem with the children playing conkers at all, unless they start to hit each other with them."

"We have quite a number of pupils from a Nepalese background who come from the families of Gurkha soldiers."

"Of course they had never seen the game of conkers before, so they became fascinated and very enthusiastic players."

Members of staff supervise the games and attach the horse chestnuts to the string.

The first recorded game of conkers was on the Isle of Wight in the mid-19th century and it spread in popularity across the British Isles. It reached Ireland but not mainland Europe.

In 1965, the World Conker Championships were set up in Ashton, Northamptonshire, and still take place on the second Sunday of October every year.

In 2004, an audience of 5,000 turned up to watch more than 500 competitors from all over the world.

The first time that a non-British contestant won the Men's World Conker Championship was in 1976, when the Mexican Jorge Ramirez Carrillo took the place of a contestant who was unable to get to Ashton on time – and defeated the 1975 champion.

The men's champion has been British in every other year except 1998, when German Helmut Kern won.

In 2000, a survey of British schools showed that many were not allowing children to play the game because of worries about splinters or concerns over pupils with nut allergies.

And in 2004, a school in Carlisle bought six pairs of goggles for pupils to wear while playing the game.

The TV programme Top Gear later staged a game of giant conkers using caravans suspended from cranes.

After putting on safety goggles, presenter James May said: "I now feel perfectly happy about being hit in the face by a caravan."

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LIVE & LOCAL

Festive charity market

A CHRISTMAS market takes place in aid of Strode Park in Herne, Herne Bay, on December 2.

It will be in Herne Institute Hall in Canterbury Road from 11.30am to 2.30pm and will feature a range of stalls.

There will also be a giant Christmas raffle and refreshments.

Musical extravaganza

THERE will be an afternoon charity concert by Thanet's finest young musicians.

The event is part of the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club's community works programme and will take place on Sunday, December 5 at the Memorial Theatre, Hilderstone, St Peters Road, Broadstairs.

To book or for details call the box office on 0845 2626263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Curry night set to open

A REGULAR Live Music and Curry Night is being launched at The Hussar pub, Canterbury Road, Garlinge.

The first is on Friday, November 26 at 8pm and features ska-pop-rock outfit Beggars Belief.

Call 01843 831732 for more information or email: charlotte@hussarhotel.co.uk.

Photography exhibition

EAST Kent Mencap's Photography Group will hold an exhibition, In All Weathers' featuring images of Thanet.

The exhibition is at Cliftonville Library, Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Margate, until Thursday, December 9.

Library opening times: Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 2pm. Closed Wednesdays and Sundays.

A Hardy annual show

COMIC Jeremy Hardy comes to the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury on Tuesday, November 30.

Hardy is a familiar face from TV shows such as QI, Mock the Week and Grumpy Old Men, among others.

Tickets are £15 or £13 for Encore theatre members. To book, call 01227 769075 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian.

Forever blowing bubbles

THE Magic of Bubbles will be explained by Dr Cyril Isenberg from the University of Kent's School of Engineering at a special lecture for all ages.

Sponsored by the Institute of Physics, the fun event is on Tuesday, November 30, at 11am and then later at 2.30pm.

Tickets are just £1. To book, visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian/theatre.

Seeing the Funny Side

THE Funny Side Comedy Club is back with compere Kevin Precious.

Comics include Stan Stanley, Phil Butler and Robert White, on Wednesday 1 December at 8.30pm at the Gulbenkian Cafe Bar, Canterbury.

Advance tickets £8 or £10 on the door. Call 01227 769075 to book or visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

Panto season? It's right behind you!

We check out the region's top family pantomimes this festive season

PANTOMIME

Various dates and venues



PANTOMIME season is almost upon us. That's right, it's once again time for dames to don their tights and TV stars to ham it up as only they can, as the region's productions are set to spring into life.

Many rehearsals are already under way, so don't be surprised if you bump into a soap star in your local supermarket.

There are several pantos set to delight families in the East Kent area, as the Christmas and new year tradition continues.

For many theatres it's a time for them to raise their profile in the community and make some money with the flagships shows.

So it's time to decide which one you want to go to and book your seats.

In Margate, the Winter Gardens is the venue to see Cinderella, a pantomime classic.

Kate Anthony, who was Aunty Pam in Coronation Street, heads the cast as Baroness Hardup.

The show runs from December 19 to 30, with seats at £14 (concessions £12).

There will also be a special schools' performance on December 16.

It's great value entertainment for all the family this Christmas and there will be two performances every day at 2.30pm and 7pm.

The region's most high-profile panto is at the Marlowe Theatre Arena, Canterbury.

Robin Hood stars John Thomson from TV's The Fast Show as the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham, CBeebie's Sid Sloane as Robin and local funnyman Dave Lee.

Robin's love interest is the fragrant Maid Marion, played by newcomer Katie Birtill.

The show takes place in the Marlowe Theatre Arena tent and runs from December 4 to January 16.

Ticket prices vary, but range from £10 to £24.50.

To book, or find out more, visit www.marlowetheatre.org or call 01227 787778.

In Folkestone, the story of Aladdin will be brought to life at the Leas Cliff Hall.

With all the ingredients that panto audiences have come to expect – big song and dance numbers, lavish scenes and lots of audience participation – Aladdin is guaranteed to keep big kids as well as little ones entertained.

Aladdin runs from December 23 to January 3. Tickets are priced at £16.25 and are available from www.leascliffhall.org.uk or by calling 0844 847 1776.

Back in Margate, the town's Operatic Society promises a "distinctive version" of Sleeping Beauty.

The show features Neil Paterson as the Prince Phillip and Georgia Rowland-Elliott as



PANTO STARS: Kate Anthony (top) stars as Baroness Hardup in Cinderella, while Margate Operatic Society take to the Winter Gardens stage in Sleeping Beauty



the colourful tale.

The Sittingbourne Community College's annual Whole School Show promises to be a spectacular event this year with over 100 cast and crew members, featuring all the Aladdin characters we know and love.

Tickets are £6 adults and £4 students and concessions. To order yours, either email Hayley.mcginity@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk or call 01795 472449.

For more information, visit www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

Next week we'll round-up the pantomimes in Mid and West Kent.



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APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH

Thursday, November 25, Friday, November 26, Roundhouse Theatre, Dover

THE Dover Youth Theatre holds this production of the Christie classic, brought to you by its talented senior students.

Following the success of their versions of *The Women and Our Town*, this takes place in the Dover Discovery Centre part of the theatre.

It's 1945 and Jerusalem's King Solomon Hotel has seen many strange travellers in its time, but none so strange as those who are now visiting.

Besides the formidable Lady Westholme and her timid companion Miss Pryce, there is bluff Alderman Higgs, English doctor

Sarah King and French colleague Dr Gerard.

The focal point of the party is Mrs Boynton, an elderly American invalid, and her stepchildren.

To the casual onlooker they are models of devotion, but the reality is very different and one of them has an appointment with death, a mystery for TransJordanian policeman Colonel Carberry to solve.

Tickets are £8 or £5 concessions. Call the box office on 01304 202544 or visit www.doveryouththeatre.co.uk for more information.



QUEX

Sunday, November 28, Powell Cotton Museum, Birchington

THE museum's doors are being opened to welcome you to Quexmas.

This 50-stall Christmas Craft Fair promises to solve all your present-buying problems and will have a huge range of gifts for all the family.

It takes place from 11am to 5pm and admission is free.

As well as having stalls selling handmade crafts, including jewellery, books, bags, hampers, soaps, toys and seasonal food items, there will also be activities for children.

These include a Santa's Grotto, card-making, lino print-

ing and a secret wrapping room, so there will be lots to keep the little ones occupied.

You'll be able to appreciate the grand Quex House dining room, which will be decorated for a traditional Christmas, take a horse and carriage ride round the grounds and listen to Birchington School Choir and the Quexmas Singers perform seasonal favourites.

You can also enjoy tea, coffee or mulled wine in the Friends of the Museum coffee shop.

For more information, call 01843 842168 or email enquiries@quexmuseum.org.

COLDPLACE

Friday, December 3, East Quay, Whitstable



TOP Coldplay tribute band Coldplace have just ended a European tour and the next stop is Whitstable.

Formed in 2003, the band have a real likeness with their chart-topping heroes, especially in frontman Shane Crofts as Chris Martin.

Now one of the biggest bands in the world, Coldplay have sunk into the national consciousness, and many believe Coldplace to be their closest tribute.

The show on the East Quay will be their last before they head to Russia to play in front of 20,000 people in the Moscow Arena.

Their aim, as a stunningly accurate tribute, is to capture the feeling of a live Coldplay performance – the music, visuals, energy and atmosphere.

Having played almost 300 gigs across the length and breadth of the UK, Coldplace have also played in countries such as Malta, The Dominican Republic, The Netherlands and Ireland, been featured in The Sun and been reviewed on Sky and the BBC.

Tickets are £10 in advance from www.wegottickets.com or from local retailers.

Visit www.whitlive.co.uk for full details.



THE BEES

Thursday, November 25, The Farmhouse, Canterbury



BUZZ along to see top indie band The Bees in Canterbury, when the former Mercury Music Prize nominees visit the city.

On tour to promote their new album, *Every Step's A Yes*, released in October, they play an intimate show at The Farmhouse venue in Dover Street.

They are due to play a string of dates supporting Paul Weller in the next two months, so the chance to see them up close and personal should not be missed.

Their new single *Winter Rose* is released on December 20 on the Fiction label.

The band members are no strangers to the area, having co-headlined the Lounge on the Farm festival at Merton Farm, Canterbury, in 2007.

The Isle of White band are known for their brand of country-infused rock, with added elements of reggae, Americana and their trademark strong harmonies.

A show not to miss as they return to play to an appreciative audience.

Tickets to the show are £12.50 and available from www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk.

Over-18s only.



FELIX DEXTER

Saturday, December 11, Quarterhouse, Folkestone



FRESH from critical acclaim for his characters and performance on BBC2's *Bellamy's People*, former Time Out Comedian of the Year winner, Felix Dexter comes to east Kent as part of a 40-date UK tour.

The comedian's new stand-up show, *Multiple Personalities in Order*, was first performed at this year's Edinburgh Festival, where it received great reviews.

Felix has performed in a maximum security prison, been threatened with violence for lacking religious conviction and been offered free sexual favours in the street.

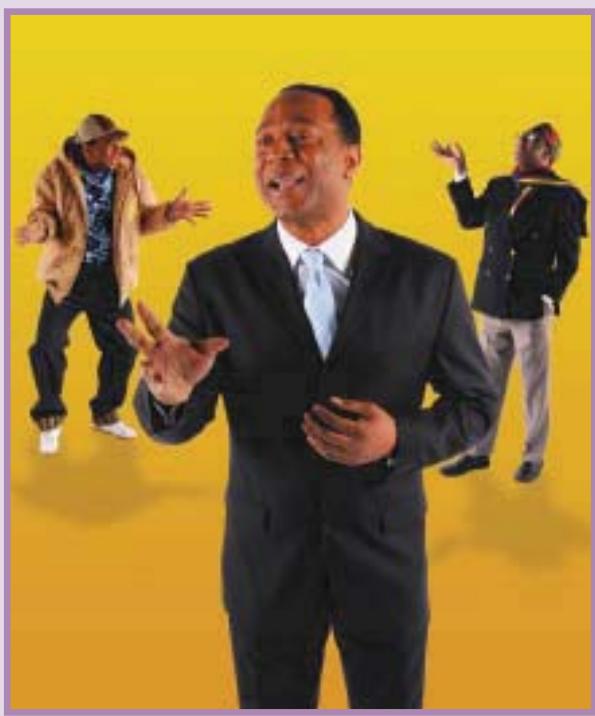
These stories and more are full of contradictions, which provide a backdrop for his characters and this year's show.

Felix, an actor and writer, played three of the main characters in *Bellamy's People*, which starred Paul Whitehouse, Simon Day and Charlie Higson of *The Fast Show*.

There was Early D, the self-styled Lion of Harlesden, Aubrey Dubuisson, the public school architect and Julius Olufemwe, hotel management student and admirer of all things English.

All three characters now appear live as part of *Multiple Personalities in Order*.

For tickets (£15 adults, £13 concessions) call 01303 85850 or visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.



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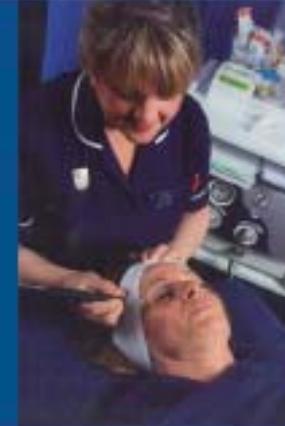
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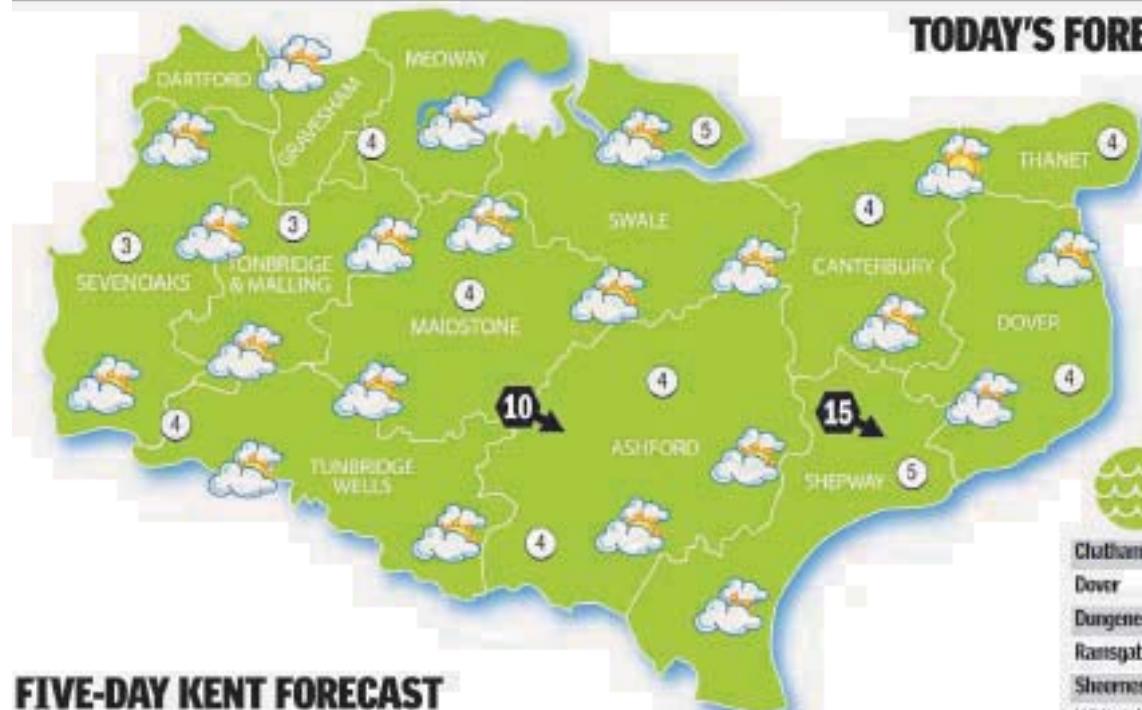


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Barcelona	15°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	9°C	Rome	15°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	25°C
Cape Town	20°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	6°C	Tokyo	15°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	0°C
Hong Kong	25°C	Warsaw	5°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	14°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Dover	Maidstone	Gravesend	Sevenoaks	Sittingbourne	Tonbridge	Tunbridge	Canterbury	Sheerness	Whitstable	Sundown	Sunrise	Sunset
Ashford	7°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	7°C	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	7°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	5°C	5.20pm 5.6m	7.29am	5.56pm
Canterbury	7°C	5°C	4°C	3°C	2°C	7°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	5°C	3.42pm 5.9m	7.42am	5.59pm
Chatham	7°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	5°C	3°C	3°C	7°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	5°C	2.24pm 7.3m	7.39am	7.0m
Dartford	7°C	5°C	5°C	4°C	3°C	7°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	5°C	3.07pm 4.6m	7.12pm	4.5m
Dover	7°C	5°C	5°C	4°C	3°C	7°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	5°C	4.13pm 5.5m	7.09pm	5.3m
Gillingham	7°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	6°C	5°C	4°C	7°C	5°C	7°C	5°C	5°C	4.16pm 5.1m	7.12pm	4.9m



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Beginning of the end is bleak and two-dimensional for wizard Harry

■ BY DAMON SMITH

AND so it begins – the final chapter of JK Rowling's best-selling fantasy saga, which holds the honour of the highest-grossing film franchise of all time.

Cleaved in two for creative and commercial reasons, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows follows the shocking events of Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince, with Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson) facing the renewed threat from Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) and the Death Eaters.

David Yates, who directed the sixth film, strikes an even darker, gloomier tone for his imagining of the seventh book, leavened with occasional flashes of humour such as when Mad-Eye Moody (Brendan Gleeson) warns his fellow wizards that the magical Polyjuice Potion tastes like something unsavoury a goblin might produce.

Screenwriter Steve Kloves remains faithful to Rowling's hefty tome, but is allowed brief moments of artistic licence.

We see Harry and Hermione tenderly dancing together, and Voldemort preys upon Ron's insecurities and jealousy by taunting him with a vision of a naked Harry and Hermione locked in a steamy embrace, their blushes spared by swirling tendrils of smoke.

The third film is certificate 12A for a reason.

Even more startling is a stylish animated sequence, that recounts The Tale Of The Three Brothers from Hermione's copy of The Tales Of Beedle The Bard, which explains the meaning of the Deathly Hallows.

The nefarious Lord Voldemort and his followers, including Bellatrix Lestrange (Helena Bonham Carter) and Lucius Malfoy (Jason Isaacs), continue to grow in power, threatening everything that Dumbledore (Michael Gambon) and his followers hold dear.

With Hogwarts in disarray, Harry, Ron and Hermione embark on a perilous quest to find



Picture: PA Photo/Warner Bros

HALF A STORY: Grief and sexual tension are among the themes for Harry, Hermione and their friends in the first instalment of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

the mysterious Horcruxes and stop the forces of darkness taking over the wizarding world.

Originally intended for release in 3D, Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows: Part 1 will only screen in traditional 2D, after the technical wizards at Warner Bros were unable to convert this first instalment to the eye-popping format in time for the worldwide release.

In some ways, it's a blessing, because the film's running time of 146 minutes would mean eye strain for younger audiences.

That said, Part 2 will definitely screen in 3D, ensuring Harry, Ron and Hermione conclude their epic quest with a bang.

Several sequences in David Yates's film have clearly been designed with the format in mind, such as when Voldemort's snake Nagini springs at the camera, fangs bared.

Radcliffe's limited acting range draws unwelcome attention and he is unable to convey the grief of his teenage hero.

Meanwhile, Watson blossoms, capturing the heartbreak of a Mudblood who may lose everything, and Grint provides comic relief as well as mild sexual tension as Ron wrestles with his feelings for Hermione.

Fiennes glowers behind his flawless make-up and Yates seamlessly melds visual effects

and live action, not least with the re-introduction of Dobby (voiced by Toby Jones).

Part 1 concludes with good and evil evenly balanced, both sides having suffered losses in pursuit of ultimate victory.

The release of Part 2 on July 15, 2011, seems an agonisingly long way off.

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1
Certificate 12A



YOUR TV REVIEW AUTUMNWATCH: BBC2, 8.30pm, Thursday

AUTUMNWATCH comes to an end next week and I for one am not disappointed.

The programme has had a bit of a makeover in the last few outings since that stalwart of natural history programmes, Bill Oddie, decided to leave. He has been replaced by the less grumpy Chris Packham who now sits next to Kate Humble.

It has to be said the sexual chemistry between the two is less disturbing than it was between Mr Oddie and Kate. He was old enough to be her father and I could have done without the stream of innuendo that was inevitable when watching animals do the fundamentals of life.

The programme tries in as many ways as possible to get the public involved. Send us your pictures, emails, join in with our online quiz and press the red button to see more

footage of stags rutting, badgers grooming and birds bonking. This is an increasing tendency in TV these days. The cheapest way to make television is to get your viewers to send in the content.

This is just one of my problems with the programme and its sister Springwatch. When it first started in 2005 it was a good idea. The live element of watching the animals was something new and it did put a focus on British wildlife which is often neglected for the flashier critters of the African savannah or Amazonian rainforest.

But five years later the novelty is wearing off. There's only so many times watching a badger scratch its privates or wren chicks depositing

their faecal sacks into their mother's beak is appealing.

They have also introduced another new presenter, Martin Hughes-Games. With his long, flowing locks and soft voice I suspect he has been brought in to be the eye candy for female viewers.

Mr Hughes-Games is a very experienced natural history producer who has now made the move in front of the camera, but quite frankly his style just seems to reinforce the feeling that this programme is made more for the enjoyment of the people making it than its viewers.

I suspect the fact that Mr Oddie and the other long-term presenter Simon King have left the programme is a sign that they could see the end is nigh. Rats can always be seen leaving a sinking ship. (Now that would be fascinating natural history viewing.)

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NIGHT OFF: The Bees are currently on tour, supporting Modfather Paul Weller

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

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BEING POLITE: Singer Kayleigh Phillips performs her new song The Polite Way



BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 The Self Titled - 27/11 The Maidens Head Canterbury
- 2 Craig Sheridan - 28/11 The Deal Hoy
- 3 Vivid Nation - 7/12 Beercart Arms Canterbury
- 4 Happy Daze - 11/12 The Heron Herne Bay
- 5 Flipswitch - 31/12 The Maidens Head Canterbury King Edward VII, Margate

Taylor and Pete Molinari have been lined up to play in the New Year.

Mr Taylor will bring his quartet to Canterbury in February while Pete Molinari will perform in March.

For details, visit www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk.

"Their new album is promising to be one of their finest yet from first listenings, which, in relation to Mercury-nominated Sunshine Hit Me and instant classic Free The Bees, is no small feat."

"Probably one of the biggest acts we've had join us at The Farmhouse, this is as exclusive and as intimate as it gets, and tickets are gonna buzz out the door for this, so don't sleep on it."

Next up at The Farmhouse is Last Japan on Friday, December 3, quickly followed by the legend that is DJ Format on Saturday, December 11.

Kent-born performers James



BACKDROP: The beauty of skiing at Lake Tahoe is enhanced by stunning views over the lake on one side and the Nevada desert on the other

yourgetaways



A Heavenly destination for winter sports and casinos

■ BY ROSAMOND HUTT

IT might be beach happy in the summer, but California also makes a fantastic skiing destination.

As our eight-man gondola inched its way up the mountain, the neon-lit casinos, motels and wedding chapels lining the highway shrank to toytown proportions, before vanishing entirely beneath a ridge.

At last, Heavenly was living up to its name. We found ourselves in a hushed, Narnia-esque world, with bear tracks criss-crossing the pine forest, branches creaking under layers of snow and Lake Tahoe's sparkling waters, far below, reflecting the peaks of the Sierra Nevada.

Holidaying in Heavenly, on the south shore of Lake Tahoe, which straddles the California/Nevada border on America's west coast, means wholeheartedly embracing the resort's dual personality.

By day, our group was 3,000 metres above sea level, skiing on immaculately-groomed runs, reveling in spectacular views of the cobalt blue lake on the Californian side and the rusty expanse of Nevada's desert on the other.

After dark, having abandoned any notion of traditional, gluhwein-fuelled apres-ski, we joined the punters trying their luck on the green baize tables in giant, Vegas-style casinos in Nevada.

At Harrah's, a casino-hotel with almost 5,000 square metres of gaming space, we watched Arthur 'Arty' Hervey entertaining the highrollers, swingers and bachelor parties with a repertoire of hits, ranging from Frank Sinatra to Justin Timberlake.

FACT FILE: CALIFORNIA

Time difference	-8 hours (GMT)
Capital	Sacramento
Language	English
Population	36.9 million
Currency	US dollars
Religion	Christian



Picture: PA PHOTODOREY RICH/WWW.DOREYRICH.COM

Rosamond Hutt was a guest of Virgin Holidays, which offers seven nights in California including flights to San Francisco, five nights at the 5V Embassy Suites Hotel in South Lake Tahoe and two nights at the Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf

in San Francisco, both on B&B, from £978. Connecting flights ex-Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh start at £99 return. Prices include car hire. Virgin Holidays reservations: 0844 557 3859 or www.virginholidays.co.uk.

One alternative to the casinos is to join the starry-eyed couples on a sunset dinner cruise aboard the Tahoe Queen, a paddleboat which steamed up and down the Mississippi in the early 20th century.

On another afternoon, our group swapped skis and snowboards for snowmobiles.

We roared along zig-zag trails through forests of towering pines and aspens, to the top of the mountain to find such picture-perfect views of the lake that I half expected a stagehand to appear and start raising the backdrop.

Our ski instructor, Pat, warned us about Tahoe's abundant black bear population, and has caught several sifting through his rubbish bins. The backcountry is also home to chipmunks, raccoons, bobcats and mountain lions.

But hopes of spotting some of the local wildlife were dashed by the combined din of revving Yamaha engines and shrieks as our group grappled with unfamiliar steering and brakes.

Tahoe, the Native American word for big water, is the world's second biggest Alpine lake after Titicaca, and one of America's most popular skiing areas.

Bought in 2002 by Vail Resorts, which also owns four ski areas in Colorado, Heavenly is the largest of seven resorts dotted around the lake, attracting around a million ski and board visitors each year.

Its proximity to hubs like San Francisco in California and Reno in Nevada make the resort a huge hit with day-trippers and weekenders, as well as inter-state and long-haul visitors.

MOTORS NEWS



Citroen C4 offers more size and more space

ORDER books have opened for the all-new Citroën C4, which brings the French marque's more contemporary sculpted styling to its family hatchback.

Launched in five-door format in January it will be slightly larger externally than its predecessor, with enhanced aerodynamics due to front and rear spoilers.

However, it is roomier inside and the boot is claimed to be the largest in its sector. Prices start from £15,595 for the 1.4 VTi 95hp VTR petrol version.



Skoda voted What Car best manufacturer

MORE than 30,000 What Car? readers have voted Skoda the Best Manufacturer of 2010.

Skoda models also scored well in their categories, with the Octavia (sporty vRS model is pictured) first in the Small Family car group and second in the Estates category; the Roomster was fourth best MPV, the Yeti voted fifth best SUV and the Fabia was in the top 10 supermini rankings. The VW-owned Czech brand has also notched UK sales of 37,000 cars this year.



Landmark luxury here in black and white

LAND Rover has forewarned of a Landmark limited edition of the Discovery 4x4 available from January.

Priced at £46,945, and using black and white colour themes, LR says the new versions feature high-end interiors including an ivory leather interior option - a first for the Discovery.

Fitted as standard is the popular 3.0 litre SDV6 twin turbodiesel and the marque's famous Terrain Response, which equips the car for virtually all on-road/off-road driving situations.



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Hyundai crossover is a no-brainer – guaranteed

ROAD TEST HYUNDAI ix35

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



whether it was actually a petrol unit. It is also incredibly clean, with emissions attracting a road tax of just £90 a year.

The engine works well in 4x4 format too; worth a relatively paltry extra £1,000 against an equivalent front-wheel drive version, and a bargain here in flagship Premium form, bringing full-length panoramic glass sunroof, lots of interior chrome, cruise control, dual zone climate control, part-leather upholstery, smart roof rails and loads more.

The 4x4's fuel and tyre consumption cannot possibly be as good as that for a front-driven version; official figures show that fuel consumption drops less than two mpg for the 4x4, but most drivers will exploit the extra grip and its partnership with a well-sorted chassis that shows what a clunker the Tucson was.

The cabin is well finished, though hardly earth-shattering in design, while the roominess and boot capacity are impressive, and the flat rear footwell makes it a comfortable five-seater.

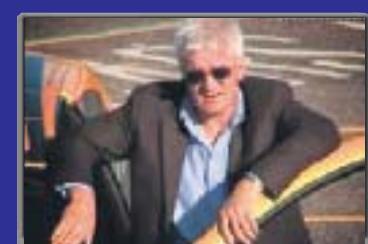
Chuck in that copper-bottom warranty and it's a no-brainer but for the branding, though badge snobbery is fast waning in these more realistic times...we hope.



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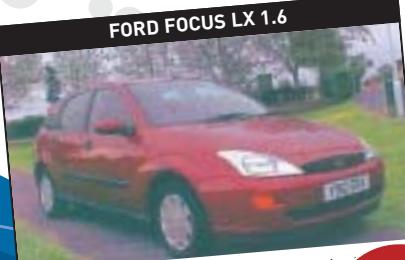
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PROPERTY NEWS



Landlords advised on how to beat squatters

THE latest plans to give landlords information on combating squatters has been praised by an industry expert.

Paul Shamplina, founder of Landlord Action, said that housing minister Grant Shapps's plans were "encouraging" as they were taking a "proactive approach" to helping property-owners deal with illegal dwellers.

"We have also recently seen the stereotypical image of squatters brought into question."

"There has been an increase in squatting by young professionals who claim they cannot afford to rent, let alone buy a property, especially with the sharp rises in rent that we have seen of late," said Mr Shamplina.

He went on to say that landlords should ensure void periods were minimised and the property did not appear to be unoccupied, while reducing the ease of access to a home was also an important step.

In the new legal guide, homeowners were told that "the law is on their side".

Warning to tenants over cheap rent scams

TENANTS should beware fraudsters who advertise properties at a cheap rent but then disappear with the deposits paid.

The thieves use websites and genuine letting-agency photographs copied from the internet to dupe people into putting down payments of thousands of pounds.

The property ombudsman has received 5,000 complaints so far this year, while the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau issued an alert last month after receiving 95 complaints, up to 50 of which were in London.

Housing charity Shelter believes such fraud is more widespread than previously thought, particularly in London, where a buoyant lettings market and shortage of properties has seen rents rise by 20 per cent in the last year.



Buy-to-let market up as more seek to rent homes

■ BY NICK AMES

THE recovery of the buy-to-let market continued in the third quarter, according to recent figures which say it has been boosted by strong demand for rental property.

A total of £2.8 billion was advanced to investment landlords in the three months to the end of September.

This represents 33 per cent more than during the same period of 2009 and the highest level since the final quarter of 2008, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML).

The buy-to-let market was hit hard by the original credit crunch and the recession, with many lenders withdrawing completely as they struggled to raise funds to lend.

Lending levels hit a low of £1.9 billion in the second quarter of 2009, but advances have been gradually moving upwards since then, as the market has recovered.

Despite the recent improvement, lending levels remain only a fraction of the record £12.4 billion advanced to buy-to-let investors during the third quarters of both 2006 and 2007.

The CML said the rise in lending during the third quarter, which was 12 per cent up on the previous three months, was driven by strong demand for rental property as many first-time buyers struggled to get the mortgages they needed to buy their own home.

Michael Coogan, director general of the CML, said: "We would expect buy-to-let demand to pick up further if current rising rental trends continue and house prices remain broadly stable."



SHORT SUPPLY: A strong demand for rented property has resulted in a rise in buy-to-let mortgages

"However, there is short-term uncertainty as a result of the unresolved debate on housing benefit and landlords' response to new limits."

"The bigger question is whether there will be sufficient supply side capacity to meet that demand, as the number of buy-to-let lenders declined in the credit crunch after 2007 and is yet to be fully restored."

Nigel Terrington, chief executive of buy-to-let lender Paragon, said the figures were "encouraging" and reflected higher confidence

among landlords and lenders in the market.

"Although we are still a long way from normal market conditions and lending is low by historical standards, the market is heading in the right direction," he said.

Further figures revealing a stagnant mortgage market in September underlined the soaring demand for scarce rental properties.

There were 50,000 loans for house purchase, unchanged on August, although the value of loans fell by £200 million.

First-time buyers back on the scene

PROPERTY website Rightmove has suggested that first-time buyers (FTBs) are returning to the housing market.

According to a report by the property website, which questioned 25,584 potential buyers last month, first-time buyers are being encouraged by falls in house prices.

It found that some 33 per cent of FTBs expect the cost of property to be lower this time next year, up from just 20 per cent in the previous three months.

Meanwhile, just over a quarter

of FTBs hope to purchase their first home in the next 12 months – up from 22 per cent in July, said Rightmove.

FTBs are key to the housing market and a shortage of them has meant a full recovery has yet to be seen.

They still need a hefty deposit of at least 25 per cent to secure a mortgage, according to figures, and this is why the numbers have been dwindling.

Finally, the survey also found that more than half of FTBs are aged between 25 and 34.



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Advertiser's Announcement

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Marine House, Herne Bay has an open weekend on Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th November 10am – 2pm. Marine House was formerly a substantial family house that has recently been refurbished into five beautiful apartments all offering sea views. There is one detached two bedroom apartment that has been designed to the latest sustainable planning requirements. The Marine House properties have many original features that have been painstakingly refurbished such as the windows, balconies and ceiling roses. Some of the apartments have beautiful fire places.

Anchorage & Windlass duplexes

Anchorage and Windlass duplexes are situated on the lower ground floor and the ground floor providing a small outside patio area. From the entrance hall you enter into the dining room that has a beautiful fireplace as the main focal point of the room. From the dining area you access the spacious sitting room that provides direct sea views.



Fully fitted kitchen with integrated appliances

The kitchen units are cream with either a granite or laminated worktop. A range of integrated appliances includes: an oven, hob, extractor fan, dishwasher, fridge/freezer and washing machine. There is a cloakroom located on this floor.

On the lower ground floor both duplexes have two bedrooms however plot 1 has an additional single bed/study. The master bedroom has a stylish en-suite shower room and direct sea views. You will also find a family bathroom and a lower landing area. Each duplex offers a courtyard garden.

Martingale

Martingale is located on the first floor and has spacious accommodation throughout the apartment. From the stairway you enter the dining room that provides access to the

kitchen and living room. The kitchen units are cream with a granite worktop. A range of integrated appliances includes: an oven, hob, extractor fan, dishwasher, fridge/freezer and washing machine.

The living room is a spacious room and provides direct sea views and features a beautiful fireplace and high ceilings. There are three bedrooms. The master bedroom has a separate dressing room and en-suite shower room which is unusual to find within refurbished apartments. There is a useful family bathroom. The Martingale has two balconies.

Davit & Genoa apartments

Are situated on the second floor and comprise of a kitchen, living room, family bathroom and bedroom. Genoa apartment has two bedrooms.

Keelson Mews

This charming separate apartment to the rear of Marine House has been purposely built and complies with the latest planning sustainable requirements making this apartment economical to run. From the entrance hall you proceed up the steps onto the main landing area that provides access to the sitting room, two bedrooms and shower room. The kitchen is separate and provides a range of integrated appliances.

Located close to the centre of Herne Bay and is perfectly situated for local amenities and transport connections. Ramsgate and Margate are also readily accessible and access to London and beyond is good via the M2/A299 dual carriageway. The Channel Ports and Ashford for the International station provide excellent links to the continent.

Externally, there are three single garages under the Keelson Mews that will be sold on a first come first served basis.

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For more information contact Strutt & Parker on 01227 451123.**



Stunning sea views from the Martingale Apartment

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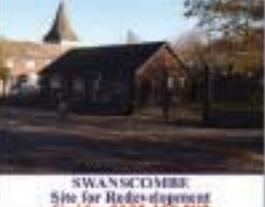
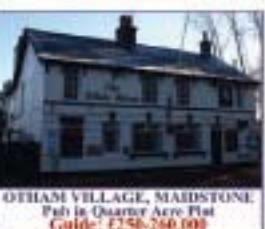
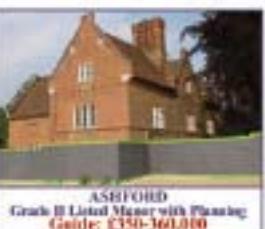
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Full-time position

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

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Operations Manager Psychological Therapy Services

£38,042 – £45,202 plus Essential Car User Allowance of up to £1,239 per annum
37 hours per week • Based East Kent and Medway

KCA (UK) Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) provide a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services which are ranked within the top 25% nationally. Combining clinical expertise, a wide range of high-quality provision and constantly improving effectiveness, our psychological therapy services have achieved significant growth including the award of major new contracts in Kent, Surrey and Haringey in recent years.

Your role will be to lead the ongoing development of the service and to ensure that all contractual obligations are achieved across East Kent. In addition to managing the teams working across the area, you will build strong professional relationships with commissioning bodies and partnership organisations. You will create a team-focused ethos within the service and support staff to promote sustained delivery improvements.

Whilst you do not need to be a qualified Psychological Therapist, you must bring an in-depth understanding of current psychological therapy practices. Knowledge and understanding of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) initiative would be an advantage. Proven management experience ideally gained in a similar setting is essential, combined with a self-motivated approach, first-rate communication skills and the ability to influence thinking at all levels.

If you have the ambition to make this high-potential role your own, you will enjoy the real opportunity to make a major impact on our future.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk. You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or telephone 01795 590795 and select option three.

Please quote reference 730.

Closing date: 9 December 2010.

Interview date: Early in January 2011.

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Fresh Produce Systems Specialists

East Anglia

Salary Salary Negotiable

Fresh Produce Systems Specialists Based in East Anglia our client is a leading supplier of fresh produce to a number of the country's top retailers. Due to the implementation of a new group-wide IT system, they are seeking individuals from a variety of disciplines in Operations, Commercial, Finance and Logistics ideally with Microsoft Dynamics Linkfresh®; experience. Initially, you will be required to become part of the Linkfresh®; project team to support the development, testing and implementation process. There will be opportunities to mentor and then manage this change in process within different departments ensuring a smooth roll out with each division within the group. The successful candidates will need a proven track record of operating in the fresh produce sector and will require a flexible approach due to the nature of this change process. In return our client is offering a competitive salary and benefit package, but more importantly the opportunity to develop a career with this industry leading company. Our client is seeking individuals for an initial contract period of 1 year, with the potential for both extensions in contract term and movements into permanent roles.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter to: info@awrecruitmentsolutions.co.uk for more information please phone 07941 902869. Closing Date: Wednesday 1st December

To apply/more information:
A W Recruitment Solutions
info@awrecruitmentsolutions.co.uk
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Catering, Hospitality

Bar Manager

Gravesend

Salary £8 an hour

Bar manager required to run and maintain a busy bar, must be over 18 years old and possess a personal license. The candidate must be reliable, take pride in their work, good communication skills, must have relevant experience and be able to think on their feet including general bar duties. The candidate will be required to work unsociable hours including weekends.

To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Sales Person

Aylesford

Sales Person Maidstone Company require a Sales Person Market Engineering product sales involving all aspects of the sales cycle from prospecting/cold calling, client consultation and presentations through to closing and ensuring smooth implementation and handover of contracts dept. Responsibilities Developing existing customer relationships.

To sell our portfolio of products and services to new clients.

To prospect for new business in a variety of ways including cold calling and utilisation of lead sources.

Preparation of sales proposals for prospective clients.

Sales support, making appointments for potential clients through a variety of methods (mainly telephony based) and following up appointments with information required to progress the sale. To ensure accurate reporting back to management, to ensure activities and targets are met. Maintain CRM data.

Personal Criteria

Relevant sales or tele-marketing experience in technology or service products.

A proven ability to hit targets. Educated to a standard complementary to an executive role. Minimum requirement, GCSE Maths and English or equivalent.

Excellent communication skills and telephone manner.

Outgoing, friendly character.

Good listening skills.

Ambitious and self driven.

If you feel you have the relevant skills and experience then please send your CV to Mark Fletcher at mark@fercell.com or telephone 01622 882916

To apply/more information:
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mark@fercell.com
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mandatory: You must be a people person
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Due to the nature of the openings and for the number of people currently looking for work in Kent, multiple interviews will be involved for selected candidates.

If you believe you can rise to the challenge and you share our passion for excellence in all areas of field sales we would love to hear from you. Please send a cover letter with your CV to admin@jkmarketingservices.co for immediate consideration or alternatively call and speak to Gemma on 01622 691730 for an immediate appointment.

*ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE 18+ YEARS OF AGE AND AVAILABLE FOR FULL TIME HOURS

To apply/more information:
JK Marketing Services
admin@jkmarketingservices.com
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Motor Trade, Driver

Drivers

Maidstone

Extrastaff are recruiting for DRIVERS Class 1 and Class 2 HIAB and Moffat 7.5 tonne Multi-drop All must have digital tacho and multi-drop experience Based in Maidstone, Aylesford and surrounding area. Please call Sarah on 01622 695555

To apply/more information:
Extrastaff Ltd
sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

7.5T Multi-Drop Drivers

Aylesford

Extrastaff are recruiting for 7.5T Multi-Drop Drivers All must have digital tacho and multi-drop experience. Based in Aylesford, Maidstone. Please call Sarah on 01622 695555

To apply/more information:
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sarah.harbour@extrastaff.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

MOT tester/mechanic

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To apply/more information:
Hilltop Garage
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Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Carers

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Experience is desirable but not essential as training will be given. Own transport preferable.

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Support Workers

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Salary ~£13,250

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ACH Care Homes Ltd
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Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales Person

Aylesford

Sales Person Maidstone Company require a Sales Person Market

Engineering product sales involving all aspects of the sales cycle from prospecting/cold calling, client consultation and presentations through to closing and ensuring smooth implementation and handover of contracts dept.

Responsibilities Developing existing customer relationships.

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To prospect for new business in a variety of ways including cold calling and utilisation of lead sources.

Preparation of sales proposals for prospective clients.

Sales support, making appointments for potential clients through a variety of methods (mainly telephony based) and following up appointments with information required to progress the sale.

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Personal Criteria Relevant sales or tele-marketing experience in technology or service products.

A proven ability to hit targets. Educated to a standard complementary to an executive role. Minimum requirement, GCSE Maths and English or equivalent.

Excellent communication skills and telephone manner.

Outgoing, friendly character.

Good listening skills.

Ambitious and self driven.

If you feel you have the relevant skills and experience then please send your CV to Mark Fletcher at mark@fercell.com or telephone 01622 882916

To apply/more information:
Fercell
mark@fercell.com
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Transport Clerk

Ashford

Transport Clerk required

Must be computer literate

Mon-Fri 7am-3pm

Temp to Perm

Based in Ashford

Please call Sarah on 01622 695555

To apply/more information:

Extrastaff Ltd
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Women Seeking

ROCKEFELLER 38, medium build, fair, funny, bubbly, likes conversation, seeks male for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353359

TALL female, medium build, bubbly, chatty, likes nights in, cooking, days out, seeks interesting male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353357

VICKY attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is family orientated. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353033

YOUNG black female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382706

CURVY young looking widow loves dancing, nights out, but would prefer cosy nights in with that special male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353483

SLIM blue eyed brunette, 48, loving and kind, hopeless romantic, likes pubs, nights in/out seeks similar romantic male to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353461

ELEGANT stylish blonde widow, young 59, very good company, looking for attractive, cultured, older male to share interests, good conversation and who knows. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353455

CUDDLY bubbly female, 49, lovely personality, many interests WLTM nice man with similar interests for friendship first. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353453

LEGGY brunette, young 50's, easygoing looking for excitement, likes nature, animals, nights out, seeks similar tall, solvent male for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353421

WARM hearted female, curves in all the right places, new to area, seeks intelligent male to share interests, friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353419

LOVELY lady, 48, beautiful curves, many interests, just wants to meet an honest decent guy and make him happy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353417

DOWN to earth, slim brunette, curves in all the right places, looking for easygoing, fun guy for some relaxed fun times. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353415

BERYL 70 plus, 5ft 6ins, slim, fair hair, green eyes, seeks gent who likes travel, theatre, sports, meals out. Hampshire. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353165

FEMALE 60's, likes music, reading, Grandchildren. WLTM honest, trustworthy gent 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352853

DISCO queen, fun loving, serene, black, attractive female, nice smile, 37, slim, lover of music, theatre, reading, sees genuine, caring gent, 36-49, N/S to share life and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815

COME live with me. Medic, petite, stunning, long hair, seeks very rich, tactile, generous gent. I will care for you forever. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351333

PENNY slim, sporty, attractive, excellent company, enjoys the outdoors, cycling, walks, sailing, theatre, travel, sees intelligent, like-minded gent for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352121

GOOD looking, slim, funny, lovable female, 24, many interests, looking for similar genuine male for cuddles and cosy nights in/out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352052

CURVY young looking widow loves dancing, nights out, but would prefer cosy nights in with that special male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353483

VERY attractive feminine working girl, great personality, loves to laugh seeks well built, experienced guy for quality times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352127

ROSEMARY 62, caring Christian, professional, divorced, sees male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382496

GORGEOUS tall blonde, blue eyes, many fun interests looking for someone special to enjoy fun new adventures with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350695

SIMPLY fabulous funky redhead, 39, down to earth, fit and active, seeks laid back, passionate guy to share red wine, good conversation, maybe more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352711

EXOTIC curly female, excellent cook, fit and active seeking mature white male to pamper and be looked after in return. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352705

ATTRACTIVE blue eyed blonde, 41, no lies, seeks someone easy-going and fun who can make life a bit more interesting. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352703

PETITE blonde, 39, seeks tall genuine fun to be with male to be happy and let her hair down with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352677

EXTREMELY attractive, slim blonde, 38, feminine and very romantic, seeks tall, loyal male who knows how to treat a lady. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352091

OUTGOING dark haired beauty, curves but definitely in all the right places, fit and active seeks sincere male for good times. Maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352095

BEAUTIFUL slim, Oriental babe, 22, seeks older, generous guy 65 plus who knows how to pamper. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348545

Pretty happy go lucky lady, no ties, seeks tall, slim, attractive guy with big heart as well as personality for fun friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352675

QUIET smart, brown eyed lady, likes meals out and dancing. WLTM laidback mature man to share laughter/LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352673

CURVY blonde, loving but a bit of a dreamer looking to share special times together with like-minded easygoing male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352671

ATTRACTIVE fun, friendly blonde, seeking fun guy. Sutton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362502

TINY attractive fun loving lady, likes to cook romantic meals, music and dancing. WLTM medium built like-minded male for loving LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352119

ADORABLE beauty, curvy, caring, down to earth, training lawyer, seeks good man for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351333

STUNNING ex model, curvy, long legs seeks tall well built guy relax with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349005

HEATHER 47, seeks kind, caring, thoughtful, trustworthy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382290

LOVELY Estonia lady, N/S, 59, likes music, travel, theatre, walks, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship and to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350719

LOVELY curvy, extrovert, green eyed blonde, seeks gorgeous, easygoing, fun male to share dances, laughs and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350697

ATTRACTIVE vivacious, curvy blonde beautiful brown eyes, many interests, looking for someone nice to cuddle up with in sofa and share good wine with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350695

ATTRACTION vivacious lady seeks good looking male to share travel, romantic nights out and lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353355

LOVELY curly, adventurous, and feminine seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350693

PROFESSIONAL successful male, 45, 6ft, fit, adventurous, fun loving, romantic, seeks attractive, outgoing female to enjoy the good things in life. Brighton. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353349

51YR old retired chef, 5ft 8ins, Irish/Italian, down to earth, seeks petite female, any age/looks. Eastbourne. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362806

ENERGETIC big hearted blonde, 24, seeks older, adventurous, looks countryside, looking for a man to love and be cherished in return. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351345

ATTRACTIVE affectionate, outgoing blue eyed blonde, 42, seeks warm hearted, kind male for good conversation, fun times and who knows. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351351

DAVID 51, divorced, shy, 5ft 7ins, seeks female for friendship, 45 plus. Worthing. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362784

YOUNG male, medium build, Indian, seeks older, adventurous, passionate lady, 40 plus for fun nights in with good food and wine, London/Herts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353083

MALE seeks slim female, 38-48 with varied interests. S London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353017

SLIM 52yr old male, 5ft 9ins, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks similar aged female to share life together. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352865

TALL white guy brown hair/eyes, 48, seeks female with good personality for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352837

ATTRACTIVE curvy blue eyed blonde, 39, likes pubs/clubs, seeks loving romantic male for a special occasion. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351391

CURVY brown eyed blonde, fed up and lonely, likes nice company, staying in with glass wine, eating out, walks by the sea, seeks similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351389

BEAUTIFUL bubbly blue eyed blonde, full of life looking for some fun back in her life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350725

ATTRACTIVE 59yr old lady, likes music, sports, cooking, travel, seeks caring male, 60-70 to share interests and friendship. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382482

VOLUPTUOUS blue eyed red head, artistic and good with her hands looking for someone intelligent and witty for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352087

CHATTY outgoing female, likes music, country pubs, seeks tall slim outgoing male to share quality time together. Possible. TLR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352089

OLD fashioned girl, 49, fun, friendly, seeks mature male for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382192

MEN SEEKING

SINGLE male, 34, seeks female for fun times, maybe more, 25-40, Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382850

TALL attractive, black male, seeks mature white female for friendship. Haywards Heath. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362848

NICE guy 52, average build, seeks curvy female, 24-45 for LTR. Wembley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353435

MICHAEL 5ft 10ins, medium build, seeks sincere female with a bit of naughtiness. Reigate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353363

RUGGED good looking, dark haired male, young looking 50, fit, charismatic, intellectual, charming, seeks slim, petite female for LTR. Dulwich. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352999

KIND warm hearted 6ft 2ins, well travelled, compassionate, romantic male, 48, seeks loving, passionate, romantic lady for LTR. Thornton Heath. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352793

ROGER 5ft 11ins, N/S, romantic, GSOH, dependable, sincere, seeks female for fun, company and maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352417

YOUNG 60yr old male, likes cats, cooking, seeks female, 54-70 to share life. Bexhill. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382618

TALL mature, attractive male, seeks slim, petite, Asian/Oriental/Latino lady for LTR. East Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352511

FIT professional male, slim, dark hair, GSOH, seeks attractive, medium build female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382608

WORTHING male, 38, seeks N/S lady, slim-medium build for walks, restaurants or days out etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382598

IS it you I am dreaming of? Male N/S, 5ft 8ins, likes music, films, seeks attractive, genuine female, 30-40 to share enjoyable times, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352565

CARING white male, 61, N/S, many interests, seeks romantic, understanding black lady, 50-65, size 18 plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352401

TALL white guy brown hair/eyes, 48, seeks female with good personality for friendship, maybe more. London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352837

VIVACIOUS blonde, big eyes, friendly, outgoing and fun seeking outward going happy male for fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351381

ATTRACTIVE fit male, 35, seeks female, 25-48 for fun relationship. Uckfield. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350725

ATTRACTIVE 59yr old lady, likes music, sports, cooking, travel, seeks caring male, 60-70 to share interests and friendship. Crawley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382482

PASSIONATE male, early 50's, 6ft, dark hair, stocky, easygoing, happy, go lucky, no baggage, seeks warm natured female in need of TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352615

MODERN slim, late 50's male, honest, genuine, sees lady for lots of fun times. Dorset. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352238

BARRY likes travel, culture, seeks fun, attractive female who is up for a laugh. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382330

TROPHY girlfriend sought by good looking, successful Windsor man, must be attractive and like nice clothes and sexy shoes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352305

FUNNY chatty 44yr old male, seeks Asian/Oriental female for special times. Cheam. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382370

SUGAR daddy available. Pete 57, 5ft 9ins, short dark hair, hazel eyes, own business, likes travel, seeks female for fun, laughs and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349285

Genuine male, 39, fit, handsome, seeks female, 18-30, for fun, laughs and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382376

SINGLE 40yr old male, sporty, dark features, good looking, seeks lonely female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 352177

41YR old male, GSOH, seeks female for fun, company and maybe more. Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382458

MALE 32, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks young female, 18-40, seeks young female for socialising and romance. Bognor Regis. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382866

MICHAEL 5ft 10ins, medium build, seeks sincere female with a bit of naughtiness. Reigate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353363

YOUNG 69yr old male, likes socialising, meals out, music, animals, seeks lady for company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382090

SINGLE male, 60, medium build, caring, GSOH, likes music, walks, places of interest, WLTM lady up to 60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350043

JAMES late 40's, likes walks, socialising, cinema, meals out, theatre, teatot, seeks female, 40-50, for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382569

6FT 2ins male, slim, N/S, brown hair/eyes, average looks, likes nights in/out, country pubs, animals, seeks similar lady for LTR. East Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382644

CRAIG 25, likes wrestling, theatre, socialising, seeks lady, 18-40 preferably ex model for LTR. Redhill. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382134

45YR old male, likes music, festivals, seeks female, 38-48 for fun, professional, honest, reliable, fun, likes sports, travels, seeks attractive female for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350753

37YR old male, N/S, no ties, seeks local female, 39-60 for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350745

TALL active, light hearted guy 55, seeks female, 43 or under for LTR. Affection and loyalty guaranteed. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351317



Gay Seeking

GOOD looking, fun bi guy, 43, 5ft 10ins, genuine, seeks similar, 30-45. Berks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353105

CHRISTINE bi CD 51, medium build, 5ft 8ins, clean shaven, N/S, seeks like-minded CD/TV for fun and friendship. South West. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382516

ASSERTIVE male, 55, seeks sub male, 40-65. Redhill. Surrey/Sussex/Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381648

CUTE 30 bi CD, seeks gent, 50 plus for casual fun times. Horley. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382466

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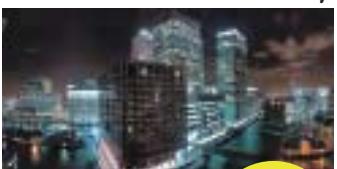
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Picture IGOR KUPCO



BACK ON FORM: Dover thrashed Tunbridge Wells at Crabble

FOOTBALL**Cup hopes dashed****Deal Town 1 Corinthian 3**

THREE second-half goals ended Deal Town's hopes of progression in the Premier Division Cup as Corinthian stole the show at the Charles Sports Ground.

Having scrapped out a goalless draw in the first leg, the sides played out a predictably cagey opening quarter, with Lee Barnett's turn and shot the closest either came to an opener.

However, Deal were awarded a penalty midway through the first-half and when Mo Takaloo stepped up to confidently convert the spot-kick, it looked as though the hosts would go on to add to their tally.

However, Alistair Reed's shot deflected into the net just after the hour-mark and as Deal nerves increased, Danny Gannon crossed for Ciaron Mulville to put the visitors ahead.

The home side switched to 4-3-3 but their balls into the box amounted to nothing and Barnett lobbed home a third goal two minutes from time to send Deal crashing out at the first hurdle.

RUGBY**D&B thrash Fisher****Deal & Bettleshanger 59****Purley John Fisher 7**

AN EVENTFUL week for Deal & Bettleshanger ended on a high note as the Lions routed Purley to record back-to-back wins for the first time this season.

Pending an appeal, Deal are to be docked 15 league points after the abandonment of their game against East Grinstead but they responded in magnificent fashion on Saturday, running in nine tries.

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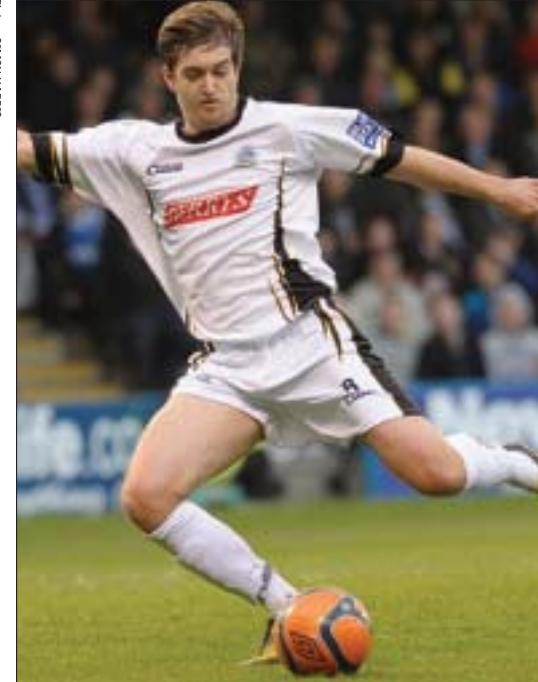
Picture IGOR KUPCO

Picture SLIM HARRIS



HIGH HOPES: Adam Birchall, left, and Luke I'Anson, right, will be two key players for Dover as they look to beat Aldershot Town in the FA Cup second round at Crabble

Picture ADY KERRY

**Sharks bite back after recent losing streak****RUGBY****Dover 46 Tunbridge Wells 12**

DOVER ended their winless run in emphatic fashion as they ran in seven tries to overwhelm struggling Kent rivals Tunbridge Wells at Crabble.

Having crumbled to a 35-0 defeat at Hove the previous weekend, the Sharks needed a good start and they got it when Buster Collins collected his own chip-kick to touch down, with Greg Phillips adding the conversion.

The Wells response was immediate as they crossed for an unconverted try in the corner, but Dover were not to be contained and Nathan Annakie collected Ben Murray's pass to extend their advantage.

Another Phillips conversion sent Dover 14-5 ahead and the fly-half, orchestrating play from the centre of the field, kicked a penalty before adding the extras to a Ben Crawford try shortly before the interval.

Against a free-flowing tide of Dover attacks, the Wells struggled to find their feet in the second-half and Jon Foster sprinted away to move them 24 points clear.

The Sharks had to withstand a brief period of Wells pressure but they turned possession over several times and skipper Martyn Beaumont cut through to score twice, with a try for the visitors sandwiched in between.

Ollie Faulkner had the final word as he scooped up possession from yet another Dover turnover to run 70 metres and touch down, sealing a comfortable win which keeps the Sharks seventh in London 1 South.

This weekend, Beaumont's side face one of the division's toughest away days as they make the trip to face second-placed London Irish Amateur.

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Dover Athletic 1

Hunt pen 69

Woking 2

Federico 15,18



DOVER Athletic are just 90 minutes away from a potentially lucrative FA Cup third-round tie against a top side – their game against League Two Aldershot Town on Saturday is all that stands in their way.

The Whites welcome the Shots to Crabble for one of the biggest games in the club's history. After their 2-0 triumph against Gillingham in the first round, supporters snapped up tickets, with Dover's 3,000 allocation sold out by Monday morning.

Dover boss Martin Hayes is confident his side have the ability to produce another giant-

killing, but says they will have to play to their full potential to avoid disappointment.

He said: "We have got to have a go. We can't sit back as we don't train every day so we will go at them sensibly. It's going to be a massive crowd and occasion for the club and it won't be a problem getting the players up for the game. It's a shame we can only get just over 3,000 Dover fans in at Crabble, but it will be good and I'm looking forward to it."

"If they go and put in another 90 minutes like they did against Gillingham then we have got a chance of being in the third round. We would be in touching distance of playing someone really big. Aldershot are a good side but they are not unbeatable. We've got a chance and will give it our best."

Dover could include new signing Barry Cogan, who is eligible for Saturday's tie. The midfielder joined the club on a short-term deal from Crawley Town and Hayes believes his experience could be key.

He said: "He needs somewhere to play and we are happy to have him. He has settled in well and I hope he will grow into it. Against Aldershot we are going to need experienced players and people like Barry will make less mistakes than some of our players because of his experience."

Dover Athletic starting XI

Subs used: Cogan (Long 58)

Defender Tom Wynter and midfielder Luke I'Anson are likely to return to the squad, but strikers Elliott Charles and Jason Norville are both rated doubtful.

While the Whites' FA Cup hopes are still burning bright, the dream of progressing in the FA Trophy was shattered after a 2-1 defeat against Woking on Saturday.

A sluggish first-half cost Dover as Jerome Federico scored twice in the opening 20 minutes to stun the Crabble crowd. A Ben Hunt penalty breathed life into the tie in the second-half and Adam Birchall hit the post late on, but they couldn't find a way through as they crashed out of the competition at the first attempt.

Folkestone pin survival hopes on Dryden and Tait

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Eastleigh 2

Gillespie 11 & 56



Folkestone Invicta 1

Smith 61



THE FATE of Folkestone Invicta's season rests on the goalscoring form of Jimmy Dryden and Allan Tait.

The Seasiders have scored just nine goals in 15 league games this season, leaving the side in the Ryman Premier's relegation zone heading into last night's game at Margate.

But optimism has risen with a double boost in the last week. Dryden, who has barely played for 18 months due to injury, has returned to action and played an hour of the side's narrow FA Trophy defeat at Eastleigh on Saturday.

It is hoped he will form a prolific partnership with Tait, who has agreed to extend his temporary stay until the end of the season.

The news has delighted boss Neil Cugley, who believes if the pair stay fit they could prove the difference between staying up and an immediate return to Ryman Division One South.

He said: "A lot will depend on whether Jimmy and Allan click and get the goals we think they will. If they do we'll probably stay



OPTIMISTIC: Jimmy Dryden has returned to action

up and if not we'll probably go down. Allan's not had a very good season so far at Margate and then Horsham, but he knows he's wanted at Folkestone and I think he'll do us proud."

It was thought some players would have to be released to accommodate Tait, but the Invicta boss is not under pressure to make room in the budget.

"Not really, we haven't got that many to lose," he said. "To be fair to everyone at the club they don't want us to throw in the towel and go down. We've got to start getting some points now."

Points were not at stake in the FA Trophy on

Folkestone Invicta starting XI



Subs used: Austin (Dryden 62), Williams (Burchell 69), Guiver (Vincent 85)

Saturday as Invicta travelled to an Eastleigh side in the Conference South's top half.

The higher-ranked team took the lead on 11 minutes when Richard Gillespie was allowed to bundle home a cross unmarked.

Eastleigh might have been further ahead at the break, but they missed several decent chances.

Invicta improved after the break, but were stung as Gillespie scored his second of the afternoon against the run of play.

The two-goal cushion only lasted five minutes, as the visitors struck back spectacularly. Winning a free-kick 30 yards out, Darren Smith tried his luck and unleashed an unstoppable shot which flew in the top corner.

Invicta finished the game strongly and dominated the final 15 minutes, but were unable to find a breakthrough to force a replay.

Cugley said: "For some of the younger players it was the biggest game they have played in and they can be pleased with how they performed."

• Log on to www.yourshepway.co.uk for details of last night's trip to Margate. Bury Town visit Buzzlins Stadium on Saturday.

RUGBY



TOOTHLESS: Folkestone failed to score against Eastbourne

Stones slip down the league after Eastbourne loss

Eastbourne 8 Folkestone 0

A LETHARGIC performance saw Folkestone fail to score for the first time this season in a disappointing trip to Eastbourne.

Any points would have at least earned the visitors the consolation of a bonus point, but they rarely exerted any pressure on their opponents' try line.

For the first 20 minutes the Stones dominated possession and territory. Significantly they could not convert it into points as poor decision-making saw three good opportunities wasted.

The scoreboard looked like it was not going to be troubled at all before half-time, but five minutes from the break Eastbourne struck. Making gains down the right wing they set up a series of rucks, which saw them reach the try line for a 5-0 lead.

Further chances came and went for Folkestone after the break. After the hour mark a series of well controlled drives from Eastbourne earned a penalty which was slotted over to make it 8-0.

The defeat, a third in four league outings, saw Folkestone slip further behind the promotion chase, with 13 points separating them from second place.

Folkestone take a break from the league this weekend as they travel to play Old Dunstonians in the Kent Cup on Saturday.

Hythe see off Wells in league return

FOOTBALL

Hythe Town 3 Tunbridge Wells 1

LEAGUE football returned to Reachfields for the first time in two months on Saturday as Hythe Town saw off a determined Tunbridge Wells.

Commitments in four different cup competitions meant Scott Porter's side had played eight games since their last Kent League engagement.

An improving Wells provided stern opposition, but Hythe took just six minutes to get off the mark as skipper Dave Cook headed home for his tenth goal of the season.

The hosts went on to play some of their best football of the season and looked dangerous every time they went forward. Craig Thompson fired wide, Brendon Cass had

a shot brilliantly blocked and Wells goalkeeper Michal Czanner saved from Cook as Town looked set to run riot.

But Wells are making progress and had chances of their own at the other end. Keelan Mooney fired just over and then won a penalty on 31 minutes when he was brought down by goalkeeper Kieron Mann. The stopper avoided a red card due to the striker heading away from goal, but could do nothing about Andy McMath's spot-kick.

It remained 1-1 at half-time, but Hythe won the game with two goals in three minutes shortly after the resumption. A crisp half-volley from Lee Winfield put the hosts in front again, before Cass made it 3-1 with a cool finish.

Only good work from Czanner prevented a rout in the second-half and on the one occasion he was beaten, by Cass late on, the crossbar came to his rescue.

Hythe visit Erith Town on Saturday.



ON TARGET: Lee Winfield scored

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